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# Maccabi hoopsters lose in Istanbul

OLUME LXV, NUMBER 19526



'Oklahoma!' in the Negev



The Knesset's power couple

News in Focus.... Shabbat Shalom ..... 11

# US Navy to aid in Dakar search

By ARMEH O'SULLIVAN

Salvage teams from the US Navy are to participate in a new search for the Dakar submarine, which went missing in the Mediterranean with its 69 crew members on its maiden voyage in 1968.

The search is expected to begin this summer. A senior US naval official is presently in Israel to coordi-nate the effort, US officials said.

The IDF confirmed that a new search is to be launched starting this summer and that the navy would be aided by "foreign civilian and mili-tary bodies." The navy refused to divulge any further information. Since the submarine sank, the

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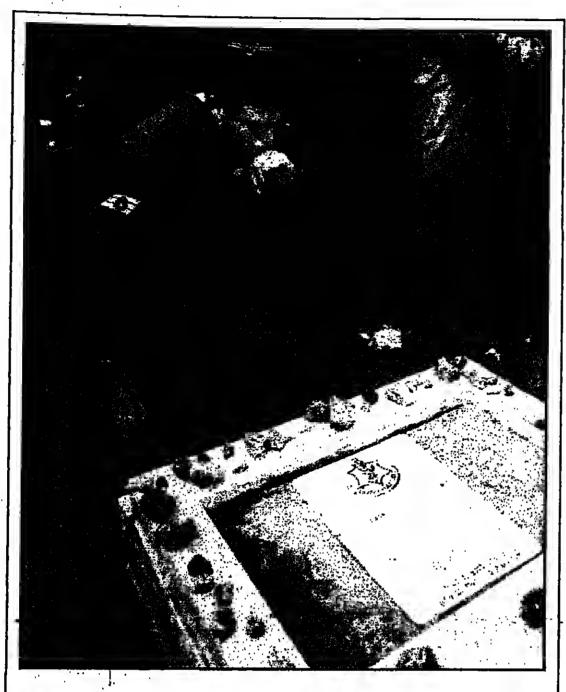
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navy has spent millions of shekels on periodic searches for it. These have ranged from the Egyptian coast to the islands of Rhodes and Crete in the Aegean Sea. Recent searches centered around sonar-generated photos of what some believe to be the Dakar, submerged off the Egyptian coast.

It is believed that the Dakar dived deeper than it should have due to human error or a technical malfunction, thus causing its frame to buckle under the weight of the sea. The Dakar was last heard from on January 25, 1968, after signaling it had passed Gibraltar on its way to Haifa from the shipyards in England.

A year after the disappearance, the Dakar's emergency buoy washed up on a beach in the Gaza Strip. An analysis of corrosion on the buoy led the navy to believe that the Dakar was lost along the Egyptian coast. But since Israel was in a state of war with Egypt at the time, a search was impossible.



# Shloshim

Thirty days after 73 soldiers were killed in the helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv, a friend kneels at the graveside of one of the victims, Shiloh Levy. The tombstone remains hlank because of a dispute between the family and the Defense Ministry. (See story, Page 7.) Also yesterday, seven light planes flew in formation from Mahanayim to She'ar Yashuv, towing a banner reading, 'We'll remember and we'll go on.'

(Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

# US Reform temple PA calls for march links with Marranos on Har Homa

In what some are hailing as a historic watershed in Jewish history, a mainstream synagogue is to pair itself with a "Crypto Jewish" com-

Crypto Jews - or Marranos - are descendants of those Iberian Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity in medieval times, and while maintaining an outward Christian identity, have secretly kept alive Jewish traditions.

"We are going to link the vast country of Brazil with the tiny community of Sharon in Pennsylvania," says Reform Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn, spirinal leader of the Temple Beth Israel to twin itself Temple Beth Israel is to twin itself with the Sinagoga Brasileira Kulanu Israel in Brazil, in what is believed will be the first project of its kind.
The Sinagoga Brasileira Kulanu

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Israel was was founded by journalist Helio Daniel Cordeiro, himself a: Marrano. There are about 400 Jews in Sharon, whose total population is about 120,000. About 85% of the Jews there are affiliated with Temple Beth Israel.

Cukierkom, 29, who was born in Sao Paulo and ordained at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio says he plans syn-chronized celebration of religious ceremonies. "I would also like to pair a Bar/Bat mitzvah in Sharon with one in Brazil," he says.

At present, Sharon's "sister syna-gogue" in Brazil numbers about 30

"There are now about 10 Marrano groups in Brazil that meet to pray, celebrate holidays and teach their children. Some are in contact with

similar groups in Peru and Mexico.
"My research shows there are up to 15 million people in Brazil of Iberian Jewish origin, and a further 20 million elsewhere, although of course only a small percentage of them are aware of their origins and even less would consider returning

### By ELLI WOHLGELERMTER and JON MINANUEL

The Palestinian Authority has ordered a mass march on Har Homa, starting at 10 this morning from Beit Sahur.

The Voice of Palestine Radio yes-terday exhorted Palestinians everywhere to "march to the peak of the mountain" to frustrate Israeli attempts to build there.

There also have been calls for Israeli. Arabs to gather on the Temple Mount at noon today to pray in protest over Har Homa.

Jerusalem police will be out in force today to prevent any distur-bances. Beginning at 6 a.m., some 2,500 additional policemen will be stationed at the two locations, and the extra officers will be on duty through Sunday.

The extra security will include helicopters, more roadblocks and searches, and extra patrols.

Security sources said that despite the PA's call for a protest, there has been coordination with Palestinian Police, and a separation zone will prevent marchers from storming

"We're prepared to face any disturbances in the streets over the weekend," said Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, the new Jerusalem police chief. "We are prepared for a whole range of reactions, including the less desirable [ones]. Since the top political echelon has made the decision for Har Homal, they will receive the full backing of the police. The Jerusalem police are prepared for all

"We will wait like every Friday," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said.

# Cabinet debates up to 10% pullback

### By DAVED MAKOVSKY and JON MIMANUEL

As last night's marathon cabinet session extended past midnight, there was widespread expectation that it would end with nine ministers supporting a proposal by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to pull back from 9 to 10 percent of the

Two other proposals were raised yesterday, calling for handing over 5% and 7% of the area.

The meeting, which began around 8 p.m., was held up at least once for Netanyahu to take a phone call from US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

US officials made clear to Netanyahu during his White House

Netanyahu's balancing act,

visit last month that they would view a 10% pullback as "credible" and not

By agreeing to a pullback which is substantially above the originally envisioned 2%, the Netanyahu govemment seems to be hoping to appease the Palestinians, after announcing plans to build a new neighborhood on Har Homa.

The speculation last night was that the pullbacks would involve the

# ullback\_ Phase I

Halhoul area outside of Hebron, as well as some territory surrounding Jenin and Nablus. The government is not expected to yield territory that would link Palestinian cities.

At one point during the session, the Shas ministers, who were expected to support Netanyahu's proposal, left the cabinet room to obtain Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's bless-

According to the Hebron agreement reached by Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in January, Israel is to begin the first of three pullbacks from areas in the West Bank today, with the last one due in the middle of next year. According to the Oslo 2 agreement, the first pullback was to have occurred in September.

It seems that the main issue facing the cabinet last night was whether the pullback needed to include a slice of Area C, the territories controlled exclusively by Israel.

There was speculation as to whether it would be sufficient to yield parts of Area B, the territories where Israel maintains security control, and which are viewed by offi-cials as ultimately destined to become Area A, under exclusive Palestinian control. As it stands now, Area A constitutes about 3% of the West Bank, and Area B approxi-mately a quarter, with the remainder being Area C.
One US official said yesterday that

the US was more focused on the total territory yielded, rather than whether it came from Area B or Area

**Continued on Page 14** 

# 4 MKs threaten to bolt coalition

# By MICHAL YUDELMAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

National Religious Party MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel, Tsomet MK Moshe Peled and Likud MK Michael Kleiner threatened to quit the coalition last night unless the pullback from Area C is not more than 30 thousand dunams, about half a percent of the area of the West

The threat is not considered immediately significant, since Prime; Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is assured of a Labor "safety net" in a

Knesset vote on the pullback. NRP ministers Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy said they might support the cabinet in the vote on the first pullback, if Netanyahu agrees to reduce the section of Area C earmarked for redeployment from two percent of the West Bank to half a

After an intensive debate of several hours, the NRP's Knesset faction authorized its ministers to try to convince Netanyahu to reduce the redeployment in Area C before the cabinet meeting, and to get a promise from him that settlements near the planned redeployment areas - such Efrat, Ganim and Kadim - will not be harmed.

Barring these terms, the NRP ministers would vote against the pull-

The NRP faction also demanded reciprocal actions by the Palestinians as a condition for the first pullback.

Netanyahu was scathingly criticized at the Likud's executive meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday, during which opposition to redeployment in the Likud mounted, spearheaded by MK Ze'ev Begin, executive chairman MK Uzi Landau and former

Likud would not have won the elections," Shamir said. "Any day that goes by without expanding the settlements in Judea and Samaria, is a defeat for the Likud. It's an indictment which those responsible will

"Without the settlements, the

not get away with." Landau said Netanyahu had

promised him that after the Hebron redeployment there would only be one pullback, and it would constitute no more than 2% of Area C. He said he was still hoping the prime minister would keep his word.

Continued on Page 14

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# Ben-Elissar presses Ross on UN vote

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON -Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, told US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross yesterday that Washington should quash an upcoming UN Security Council resolution on the Har Homa con-

"I asked him to look beyond. We are watching intently the US position on anything dealing with the Security Council resolution and the activity going on [at the UN] against us," Ben-Elissar told

Israeli reporters. Ben-Elissar said he had not issued a threat but that should the resolution pass calling on Israel to refrain from building at Har Homa, it would "ruin tomorrow for the benefit of a resolution

An Israeli embassy official said Ben-Elissar's comments mean that Israel would not be assuaged by a US abstention on the vote. .

However, despite a week featuring multiple American criticisms of Israeli actions, relations are not

sinking, Ben-Elissar said. "This is not a crisis. This is not the start of a crisis. When we don't agree on an issue regarding Jerusalem - the American view is known, the Israeli view is known it doesn't mean there is a crisis,"he

Ben-Elissar met with Ross just hours after his return from three days of consultations in Israel. He quoted Ross as saying that State

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns had "overstepped his guidelines" on Monday in describing just-formed American-Palestinian economic commission as akin to panels the US has established with Egypt, Russia and South Africa. But Ben-Elissar said Israel remains "disappointed" and "unsatisfied" by the raising of American-Palestinian relations

and subsequent US clarifications. On Burns' criticism on Wednesday of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's decision to close down four PA institutions in Jerusalem, Ben-Elissar said: "We don't accept it when they come to us with claims about what we do in a sovereign part of Israel, including Jerusalem."

In an appearance before the Foreign Press Center, Burns said that the Israeli decisions on Har Homa and the PA offices leave the US "disappointed and ... frankly, puzzled" because Israel "ought to move these peace negotiations for-ward, not backwards."

Burns said: "After the Hebron agreement, we really had the sense that there was some renewed vigor and momentum in the peace negotiations and a sense of hope. And that has been negatively affected by some of these decisions of the last week by the Israeli govern-

another development. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has responded to a letter from Congress with a letter of his own stating that the PA has no offices in Jerusalem.



Jerusalem police cover a knife used in yesterday's stabbing. (Hender)

# Two hurt in separate stabbing attacks

and ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

A 51-year-old Jewish resident of Jenusalem was stabbed yesterday morning while sitting on a park bench behind the King David Hotel. Police have not arrested any suspects, nor determined whether the motive was nationalistic or criminal.

The victim, David Orenstein, was brought to Haddash-Ein Kerem Hospital, where doctors performed a three-hour operation. His condition last night was listed as moderate.

Orenstein was approached by three teenagers at around 10:00 a.m. He offered them candy, which two of them accepted. The third then stabbed him in the neck with a pocket knife, and the three fled in the

direction of the Old City. Meanwhile, a taxi driver from Arad was lightly injured in the hand after struggling to prevent two

Palestinians from stealing his car

NEWS

The driver picked up the two Palestinians mid-morning and drove them to Yatir, near Hebron. Near Yatir, one of the passengers took out a knife and tried to force the driver out of the car. The driver grabbed the knife but was overpowered by the two attackers, who drove off in the taxi towards the autonomous areas. He was picked up by a Beduin, who took him to Yatir for treatment.

Police and IDF forces later arrived at the scene and found the abandoned car on the roadside near the

# ABCs of redeployment

Area A- This area is under exclusive Palestinian control (although technically not sovereign control since the Palestinian Authority is not a state). The IDF does not enter Area A except as part of mandat-

ed periodic joint patrols.

As it stands now, before the upcoming pullback, Area A constitutes 3% of the West Bank including the major cities and surrounding environs. Twenty percent of Hebron still remains under Israeli control. Tomorrow's pullback will add new parts of the

West Bank to Area A. So far, the "A" areas are not contiguous, as they are separated territory deemed Area B or Area C.

Area B - These areas are under shared Israeli-Palestinian control and includes over 400 villages in

Israel retains "overriding" security authority for these areas, meaning the IDF can enter these areas at will. The Palestinians retain civilian authority in these areas and are in charge of maintaining public order. For example, if somebody commits a robbery in a village, this would be handled by the Palestinian security forces.

Area B now constitutes approximately 27% of the West Bank. Netanyabu's aides, and others, such as Ariel Sharon, say they see all of Area B as ultimately becoming Area A by the end of the third pullback, which is scheduled to occur by the middle of next

year. Part of Area B is to become Area A in the coming pullback.

Area C — Area C, which is under complete Israeli control, includes everything which is not in Areas A and B. This now constitutes about 70% of the West Bank, and includes all settlements and military

Since it is acknowledged that Area B is going to eventually become Area A, the fight for the rest of the West Bank is going to center on Area C. The reli-gious ministers have said they do not want any part of Area C yielded in the first pullback.

However, under the Oslo Declaration of Principles (DOP), Oslo 2, and the Hebron accord, Israel is committed to yielding the entire West Bank with the exception of settlements, any areas needed for exter-nal defense, and "specified military locations."

Following the signing of the Hebron accord, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahn received a letter from then-secretary of state Warren Christopher signalling that Israel will designate what those military locations will be and that these will not be negotiated with the Palestinians.

While Yasser Arafat has privately told groups that he expects to gain 80% of the West Bank by the end of next year's third pullback, the Prime Minister's Office has suggested the actual figure would be around 50%, and would include both areas A and B.

### **ANALYSIS**

# Netanyahu's balancing act

By DAYID MAKOYSKY

Last night's expected decision by the cabinet to further redeploy. in the West Bank is another unmistakable step in Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's road to Oslo, but it is clear that the road ahead will be as winding as the one he has already traveled.

Netanyahu never fails to tell American and Palestinian officials that only a Liknd leader can bring 90% of Israelis to accept the Oslo process. But for Netanyahu, bringing the Likud along carries a price. Netanyahu's balancing act is straightforward: Keep the peace process on track and his governing coalition intact. Unlike Shimon Peres, who felt it was crucial to

demonstrate to the public that

Israel is moving in this direction freely and enthusiastically, Netanyahu wants to demonstrate the reverse: that while he realizes that progress must be credible to the Palestinians, he is proceeding grudgingly, like a person going to

have a tooth pulled. The events surrounding this pullback likely indicate the pattern for the next two pullbacks, scheduled to be completed by the middle of next year. Every move Netanyahu makes to satisfy the Palestinians will be

accompanied by a move to placate his own constituents; witness the not-so-coincidental timing of the Har Homa decision and the closing this week of four Palestinian offices.

Netanyahu could doubtlessly argue that if Yasser Arafat had fulfilled the Palestinian promises, such as to extradite terrorists, that were made in the Note for the Record that followed the Hebron accord, he would not have had to resort to what some observers jok-ingly call, "unilaterally-imposed

But this two-sided approach will in the end, satisfy neither the Palestinians nor ideologues inside the Likud, as both vie with each other in sputtering how little they trust Netanyahu.

# Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the seven of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the nine of clubs. In last night's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 640012 won NIS I million, while ticket number 524761 was good

Those holding tickets numbered 165181, 762056, 339912, 636595, 182871, 343641, 172125 and 761485 all won NIS 5,000. Those holding tickets ending in 98772, 61717, 54882, 82628, 61456, 37008, 83911, 70794, 52814, 78768, 94770, 74385, 23870, 34953,

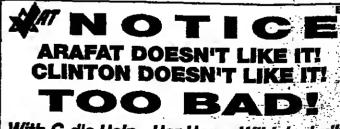
32636, 86961, 64490, 49552 and 48467 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 127, 511, 338 and 248 all won NIS 100; in 91, 51,

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# Jerusalem offices fight closure order

Jawad Boulos, the lawyer representing the four Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem that received closure notices Wednesday, is to meet with Internal Security Ministry representatives on Sunday morning, shortly before police are to close down the offices.

My hope is that we will pass this roadblock via kindness and peace, without this incident becoming oil on the bonfire that already is burn-

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ing," Boulos said. He said he will pursue all legal

PARIS - Israel and Syria should exchange the "land for peace" for-

imila that served as the basis for

peace talks since the Madrid

Conference for a formula that

promises "total withdrawal for total

security," the European Union's spe-

cial envoy to the Middle East

Miguel Angel Moratinos suggested

"Evidently, in order to assure the

Israelis, we will need solid formula-

tions, guarantees of military pres-

ence, demilitarized zones, separa-

tion [zone] or an international secu-

rity presence", Moratinos said, in an

interview with the French weekly

L'Express. Moratinos said he has

already proposed this to the EU

presidency, the EU member coun-

tries, and the parties concerned in

resume an EU attempt to bring the

two countries back to the negotiat-

Moratinos, who next week will

the Middle East.

of Justice. These actions may prevent the police from closing down the offices on Sunday as scheduled. Police did not sufficiently research the decision and investigate what each office really is, Boulos said. Police did not get all of the offices' names right and mistakenly claimed that Palestinian official Faisal Husseini is affiliated

with one of them, he said. The four offices are the Geographic Research and Information Center, the Palestinian Small Businesses means to overturn the closure orders, Project, the prisoners' elub, and

ing table, admitted that the gap between Syria and Israeli is still

very large, and it will likely be some

The Spanish diplomat also said

that it was wrong to maintain sepa-

rate bilateral negotiations between

Israel, Syria and Lebanon since it is

impossible to separate the issues on

"I believe that the Arabs make a

mistake when they claim that it is

not possible to advance in regional

cooperation, without [first] obtain-

ing substantial progress in the bilat-

eral talks. They harm themselves. I

will never defend their freeze of

relations with Israel," Moratinos

Moratinos added that be was con-

vinced Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu truly wishes to continue

the peace process, started by the late

those tracks.

with Israel

declared.

time before peace talks resume.

EU envoy calls for

'total withdrawal'

Struggle Against Settlements.

The prisoners' club was open for business yesterday. Its occupants were upset about the elosure order. but if they must move it will not take long to clear the shop. The office consists of a table, a chair, a bookcase, a computer and five file

"We have been here since 1990. The Shabak [General Security Service] knows that," director Mohammed Abu Saleh said.

He denied that the office was connected with the Palestinian

# Shara tells de Charette Syria wants peace

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette yesterday discussed with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Shara, how to restart Damascus's The envoy sharply criticized the Arab states' freeze of normalization peace talks with Jerusalem, officials

They said Shara told de Charette that Syria was ready to resume the negotiations Israel broke off a year ago, but stressed they should begin from where they ended under Israel's previous government. Syria says the Labor government agreed to return all the Golan Heights.

"If the current Israeli government is interested in peace then it should endorse the formula on which the peace process was based and commit itself to the outcome of talks which were held with the previous Israeli government," a Syrian offi-

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said he would note but not necessarily accept the results of previous talks.

De Charette, touring the region to revive talks between Syria, Lebanon and Israel, arrived on Wednesday from Israel, where he met with Neranyahu. He was meeting President Hafat Assar before: heading to Lebanon later in the day on the last leg of his tour.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah leader Shiekh Hassan Nasrallah yesterday reiterated warnings that Hizbullah will launch Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee if any more Lebanese IDF or South Lebanese Army activ-

Nasrallah, in a Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation television interview, said his organization's Katyusha launchers would be used against Israel as soon as it was felt that the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath were no longer protecting Lebanese civilians.

Nasrallah declared, however, that Hizbullah had decided to give the understandings another chance.



German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel puts a stone on Yitzhak Rabin's grave after laying a wreath yesterday. Kinkel also vis-ited Yad Vashem, writing "Never Again!" in the visitors' book.

# German FM: Israel should 'think again' about Har Homa

In a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy in Jerusalem yesterday. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel asked the government to reconsider its decision to

"I have told my Israeli colleague that I am appealing to Israel to think again if this decision is necessary," Kinkel told a news conference after the meeting. "I really believe that this is a time for careful consideration. and that everything has to be flone to calm the situation."

Levy said that the rules of hospitality permitted a guest to give advice. "We have taken note of it," he said, adding that construction in Jerusalem does not violate Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

"Jenisalem may not become a hostage of

tinue to build."

Kinkel responded that it was the position of the European Union that the status of Jerusalem has yet to be determined.

Earlier yesterday, Kinkel laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, and wrote "Never Again!"in the visitors' book. He also paid his respects at the nearby grave of Yitzhak Rabin. Kinkel is scheduled to meet with

Palestinian Anthority Chairman Yasser Arafat today before remming to Germany. Meanwhile, E.N. Flug, the director of the

Organization of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, yesterday called on Germany to pay new reparations to Jews who survived Nazi atrocities during World War II and are still living in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"These people who are still alive are suf-

fering now. They are old and ill, without family and with trauma,"Flug said.

Flug said he told Kinkel in a 20-minute meeting that "You, the new generation, are not guilty, but you are responsible."

Kinkel did not speak afterwards to reporters. But Flug said Kinkel told him that "he personally is on our side."

Since 1990, some German reparations

have been paid to eastern European Jews, under certain restrictive conditions. But Flug said more was deserved, and about 10,000 survivors have not been compensated.

"If every German were to contribute the money for one package of eigarettes, it will be together 500 million marks (900 million NIS) and this will solve the problem," said the Polish-born Fing, 72, a Holocaust survivor who spent 51/2 years in Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz.

# To: Prime Minister BINYAMIN NETANYAHU

# Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am a member of the National Camp.

I seek to guarantee the Land of Israel for the People of Israel. I believed in you and voted for you to be our Prime Minister.

I have been bitterly disappointed.

If I had wanted to place Hebron under terrorist rule,

If I had wanted to free terrorist murderers,

If I had wanted to freeze settlements.

If I had wanted to divide Jerusalem and to put most of Judea and Samaria under terrorist rule.

I would have voted for Peres and the parties of the extreme Left.

As someone who voted for you, I must regretfully inform you that:

# If you continue in this way, I will no longer give you my vote.

Lt.-Col. (res.) Yosef Dreisln

Maj. (res.) Ze'ev Ehrlich

Prof. Amos Ehrlich

### Signatures - in alphabetical order (partial list) Dr. Dor-Shav Cohen and Neta Cohen

Rabbi Aharon Adler Yinon Ahimon - Head, Efrat Local Council Dr. Amnon Albek

Col. (res) Gideon Altshuler Com. (ret.) Meshulam Amit Yehuda Amsalem

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# Withdrawal symptoms

Theo Oslo 2 was signed in Washington around 18 months ago, it was one of the pesky details that was lost in the grand sweep of the agreement.

The maio focus was on the fact that Israel was to withdraw from the seveo major Arab towns in the territories it held since the 1967 war. Few paid much attention to the provisions concerning unspecified further redeployments down the road. Eveo as late as last May's elections, few politicians, possibly including Binyamio Netanyahu, really understood what Israel had committed itself to, beyond the high-profile withdrawal from Hebron that loomed ahead.

Now the first of the three further redeploymeots is at hand. Though the agreement piously states that nothing in it will prejudice the uncoming final-status talks, neither side really believes that the redeployments are reversible. In fact, as National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon insists, they should be called withdrawals.

As with other aspects of the peace process, Israel is caught between winning the expectations game by withdrawing from a greater-thanexpected area, and oot giving up too much. After Hebron, it was expected that Israel would hand over the minimum amount possible in the first withdrawal - perhaps two percent more of the West Bank. After all, the exact extent of the first two withdrawals is not really significant, since both are just a down payment toward the third withdrawal, scheduled for August 1998.

Despite this, Netanyahu has been confronted by serious opposition to this, the least problematic of the withdrawals. The Land of Israel Front, a new group of right-wing Knesset members, has insisted that there be no withdrawal from any of Area C, the roughly 70 percent of the territories that remain under complete Israeli control.

It is not clear whether there is any real matter of principle behind the right-wing's demand not to touch Area C. Ohviously it is in Israel's interest to keep as much of Area C as possible before come in the year 2000. proceeding with the final-status talks, because this is the area that will be a key subject in those negotiations. But it is evident that even under the most expansive conception of what will remain under Israeli control, some of Area C will be transferred to the Palestinians.

That said, the Palestinians and the US will take the inclusioo of eveo a small portion of Area C in this withdrawal as a symbolic reinforcement of Israel's commitment to continue the Oslo process.

A perhaps more significant and logical reason to oppose even this relatively small step is the position taken by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan. Eitan said he cannot understand why Israel should go ahead with any of the withdrawals wheo the Palestinians have not corrected any of its violations of the Oslo accords.

What happened, the premier's critics ask, to Netanyahu's vaunted concept of reciprocity?

It may seem that in stressing the need for reciprocity - indeed, in making it the centerpiece of his implementation of Oslo - Netanyahu created a new standard that has come back to haunt him. Ministers in his government, not to mention critics such as Ze'ev Begin, are skeptical that Netanyahu will be any more successful than his predecessors in - as Netanyahu has ofteo put it - transforming "give and give" into "give and take."

Netanyahu's hrave new world of reciprocity was embodied in the Hehron agreement's Note for the Record, signed by Dennis Ross and therefore bearing the weight of a US guarantee. Within days, Israel will have completed the two "issues for implementatioo" on its side of the ledger: the first redeployment and the release of womeo prisocers.

The Palestinian side of the hargain was: "Completing" the revision of the PLO Charter, fighting terror and preventing violence (iocluding "preventing incitement and hostile propaganda"), "systematically" comhating terrorist infrastructure, confiscating illegal weapoos, reducing the size of the Palestinian Police force to permitted levels, and ahiding hy Oslo's restrictions oo Palestinian Authority activity, which prohibit PA offices and police from operating in Jerusalem.

To date, there is no visible Palestinian implemeotatioo of any of these commitments. It remains to be seen whether PA Chairman Yasser Arafat will be able to prevent violence in response to Israel's decision to huild a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem's Har Homa. So far. he is walking a tightrope - oot encouraging violence directly, but refusing to explicitly rule it out. He cootinues to play with fire by making extreme - not to mentioo false - claims that the Har Homa project violates Oslo, isolates Moslem holy places, and - the most bizarre seeks to usurp Bethlehem in the celebrations to It would not seem too much to expect from

Arafat that he at least say that he is committed to opposing violence. But when given the opportunity at the National Press Club in Washington this week, he refused to rule out violence, instead implying that whatever means the Palestinian people chose in opposing Israel, he would support.

The Netanyahu government is right not to hold up this first symbolic withdrawal with overly ambitious demands of reciprocity, partic-. ularly giveo the strains that the Har Homa decision has placed on the process. But reciprocity is a can that should not be kicked down the road too many times. The pressures that led Netanyahu to move forward on Har Homa will, sooner or later, repeat themselves on the issue of

# MEIR ROMNEN@97

# A failure to understand

The first of the three further redeployments (FRDs) called for in Oslo 2 is scheduled for today.

OPINION

Its precise terms are not of cosmic significance, which perhaps is why the prime minister didn't eveo bother holding a serious cab-inet consultation before announcing those terms.

Nevertheless, the context in which the redeployment is being carried out speaks volumes about the consequences of an obsession with tactical firmness at the expeose of overall strategic vision.

One of the few evident gains to come out of the government's determination to renegotiate Hehron was American confirmation of Israel's position that the extent of the FRDs should be determined unilaterally, rather than through agreement with the Palestinians.

This obliges Binyamin Netanyahu only to stick to the agreed timetable, while allowing him to define the scope of the redeployments however he wants.

In other words, Israel is technically entitled to make minimal concessions now, in order to retain more bargaining assets for the permanent status negotiations. However, even this accomplishment is more apparent than real, for two reasons.

The first is that the right to act unilaterally does not mean Netanyahu can act free from outside pressure.

One sort of pressure is the expected Palestinian reaction.

Binyamin Netanyahu has snapped the Right's spinal cord; the national camp is

Whatever Israel's final borders,

the process we are embroiled in

can only undermine our indepen-

Presideot Clinton, his craving for

Clinton's atteotion and support,

call to mind another prime minis-

ter, Lebanon's Rafik Hariri. He's

another one who doesn't make a

move without a pilgrimage to the

palace of his country's true

leader, Hafez Assad. There he

details his intentions and plans,

and either gets the thumbs up, or

An unfair comparison? I admit it.

Lebanon didn't capitulate will-

ingly. It was occupied by the

Syrians, whose army now sits in

Damascus dictating government

Netanyahu, on the other hand -

the man who was propelled into

office under the banner of firm-

ness and national pride - is sub-

mitting quite easily to Clinton

(whose pressure on him is oothing

like Nixon's was on Rabin, or

Bush's was on Shamir). What

really matters to him are the divi-

dends of power, and the notice

doesn't.

in ideological paralysis.

MARK A. HELLER

Although the process confirmed by the US deprives the Palestinians of any basis for complaining that the redeployment is too late," it leaves them ample room to complain that it is far "too

Of course, such complaints are probably inevitable - less, perhaps, as an expression of genuine disappointment than as a kind of

Arab states and the Europeans, but the most important is the US – and this highlights the second rea-son for the dubious value of the FRD provision in the Hehron agreement: It reflects a radical thift in the American role since the elections - from facilitator to arbiter of what is acceptable or unacceptable.

This worked to Netanyaho's

The essence of today's planned redeployment is: Talk loudly and carry a small stick

preemptive strike in anticipation of the far more serious controversies likely to arise in connection with the third redeployment.

But a mechanism to negotiate today's redeployment would have required at least formal endorse ment by Yasser Arafat before could be carried out. Without this mechanism, Netanyahu has to be more sensitive to the Palestinians response to a "miserly" redeployment, a calculation made even more difficult by the announcement of the intention to build on Har Homa.

THE Palestinian factor is reinforced hy pressures from other quarters for Netanyahu to show responsibility" and do something real," rather than just "symbol-

These other quarters include the

apparent advantage with respect to the procedure for FRDs, but that will oot always be the case, as

is already clear from the substance of this redeployment.

Homa; afterwards, they became irresistible.

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Ameni - and more than

- Legi (2000)

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Thus, Netanyahu'a rhetoric of firmness and determination became progressively divorced from the realities of American anticipated pressure and anticipated Palestinian reaction; the result is a and redeployment covering about 10 percent of the territory, including parts of Area C.

There is no reason to doubt the prime minister's claim that the extent of the redeployment is not part of any explicit deal with Arafat. By the same token, there is no reason to doubt the nature of the implicit trade-off: more territory in return for less pressure and less violence.

The redeployment is oot a surrender, as Netanyahu's right-wing critics charge, since it (unlike the third FRD), does not materially affect the real balance of power between Israel and the Palestinians in advance of perma-

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **MANY THANKS**

Sir. - Words are inadequate to express our thanks to The Jerusalem Post and its readers from all over the world for the magnanimous reaction to the recent theft of equipment from our center for the bilind in Safed. From New York City and Pocatello, Idaho, in the United States; from Munich, Germany, from Holland and from all parts of Israel, the openhanded, warm response which, within three weeks after you ran the story, made it possible for us to repurchase the instruments taken from our music room, has overwhelmed

The staff at Diesenhaus in Ramat Hasharon, British Ambassador David Manning, the Jerusalem Post Toy Fund, Yossi

Sir, - There's the story told of the

old man who remarked: "Well, I'm

not so young anymore. My vision is

bad and I don't hear so well. Thank

goodness that I am still able to

Our prime minister "didn't see" the

posters displayed of Yitzhak Rabin in

a Nazi uniform, and "didn't hear" the

cries at the Likud central committee

UK ex-haverim!

### **NO BARREN HILLTOP**

Friedman Insurance Agency of. Tel Aviv, kibbutzim, people in nursing homes, and so many others, indeed showed how genuinely they cared by helpiog us to recoup our loss. Today much of the equipment has been replaced hy this outpouring of kindness. To say that we are grateful hardly expresses how moved all of us at the center are. We can only Arah villages. hope that the appreciation which

environmentalists, whose fundraising appeals arrive regularly, screaming their protests against the planned destruction of this pine and cypress forest, part of the green belt which Teddy Kollek eovisioned surrounding

owners of Har Homa paid their taxers but were forbidden to build on their properties to protect the green belt. Along comes the omnipotent government, expropriates the forest and says you couldn't huild on the land, but we can.

Is that ethical? A naive question. More important is there actually a "public need" (the language of the Expropriation Act) to huild on this greeo forest. Is there not large tracts of truly "barreo" open land in both East and West Jerusalem in both East and suitable for housing.

J. ZEL LURIE

Sir, - Calling all Habonim Dror since 1929. We would greatly appreciate it if From March 26 to April 1 ex-members and friends of ours Habonim Dror UK will hold our could attend our Veida. The ideal point in the program would be the weekend of March 28th to 29th Veida at the Ben-Gurion Institute

is in our hearts with these words

To The Jerusalem Post and

LILLIAN R. COHEN

Advancement of the Blind

The Center for the

David Rudge, your reporter for

the north, thank you so much.

that "Benny Begin is a traitor."

Given his deficient sight and hear-

ing, he must indeed he grateful that

he is still in the driver's seat. For the

rest of us who must travel on the

same road, extreme caution is in

SHMUEL HIMELSTEIN

enters into your hearts.

at Sde Boker, in order to mark "100 Years of Zionism" and to (when many of our varikim will reassess our ideology. We will join us). hring 130 madrichim (aged 16-24) Please spread the word! If peofrom Britain, as representatives of ple are interested, please contact Avraham Greenspan (Irgun Varikei Habonim), tel: 09-743-3192. our 1,000 members here, as well as our 30 Shnat Hachshara group participants who are currently in Many thanks. Israel. We are also inviting many hundreds of our ex-members from

HABONIM DROR

**CAUTION NEEDED** 

Jerusalem

JAMES ROSENHEAD

Mozkir, Habonim Dror around Israel who have made aliya London,

Sir, - As the Israeli newspaper of record for tens of thousands of English readers, you must be careful of every adjective and phrase. Calling Har Homa "a barren hilltop" in your editorial of February 21, is obviously wrong. Anyone passiog Mar Elias on the Hebron Road can see a green oasis in the midst of several dusty treeless,

I wonder why I don't hear the Jerusalem.

For decades the Jewish and Arab

Delray Beach, Florida.

### A LOW BLOW

Sir, - All of us at one time or another have experienced emharrassing moments, though I dare say, a run in one's pantyhose is not so terrible. But, for Greer Fay Cashman to focus on it is a low 3 hlow (February 26). Is it perhaps | bodies, then march through town. part of a personal vendetta against Sara Netanyahu?

Unflattering photos and nitpicking serve no purpose in a paper like yours.

DIANA SCHIOWITZ Jerusalem.

Among the strategic assets he has received in return are photos of the president as babysitter, frolicking with Yair and Avner

Netanyahu in the Oval Office. dence and destroy the inner force that drove us to achieve it. That precious sense of being a free people, as opposed to just another vassal state, is in real danger. Netanyahu's dependency on

That sense of be

PEOPLE close to Netanyahu at different stages of his career explain his lack of loyalty to ideology, declared beliefs, friends, party and family, hy saying that his character is fundamentally flawed.

and superlatives showered on "frieod" and "partner" Yasser Arafat, after Arafat incited the killing of IDF soldiers.

Theo there are those utterly incomprehensible things Netanyahu said to US senators during his last

The only thing that can save the country's self-respect is new elections, fast

now, and oo experience in government will correct it.

And the more political and social crises we face - and pleoty are in store over the next few years - the more Netanyahu's character flaws will emerge. Because of them, we could find

our national existence in danger. Only a profound, fundamental flaw in the prime minister's character can explain the totally illogical way he behaves even when he isn't under pressure, when there is no political conflict involved.

Recent examples are the decision to give Roni Bar-On the attorney-

Well, that flaw is showing itself visit to the US - which surprised Arafat himself - about it not being so significant if the Palestinian Covenant wasn't amended. (Just a few short months ago, the issue was

"a matter of life or death.") Finally, there was Netanyahu's use of Tammany Hall tactics to neutralize his Likud opponents at the party's central committee meeting this week. Even people like Moshe Arens and Yitzhak Shamir, who paved Netanyahu's road to power, were silenced, and left the meeting angrily.

David Levy and Ariel Sharon are among those who, years back, warned about Netanyahu's deep Zevulun Hammer are expressing those very same concerns, albeit behind closed doors. Yes, ministers and MKs like

Benny Begin and Ariel Sharon

aren't sleeping very well these days. They lie awake worrying about what this man may hring down upon us.

Yet they aren't doing anything useful, getting together with responsible Laborites, for example, and coming to an agreement about the closest possible date for

new elections. This is what most happen before it is too late. All true Israeli patriots, left or right, religious or secular, must put aside all other considerations, particularly nar-row political and personal ones.

If they don't, they won't be able to make excuses later. They won't be able to say, "We weren't warned."

The writer heads the Foreign Relations and World Jewish Organizations Committee of the Council of Jewish Residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

### POSTSCRIPTS

and admiration of the media.

IMAGINE PIERCING your cheek - not with a faddish gold earning, but with an anchor, a spear gun or a small tree. Not hizarre enough? Try a 1.5-

meter marlin sailfish. Body-piercing with hits of gold through the navel or lip may be an eyebrow-raising rage in the West, but to hundreds of tranced-out veg-

etarians in Thailand, that's nothing. The innocently named annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival saw hundreds of religious devotees thrust unbelievable objects through their According to local legend, a

Chinese settler centuries ago fell into a coma and was brought to a Chinese temple where he recovered. To appease the gods, he pierced his body - with what kind of object is now unclear. The practice apparently spread.

The piercing became linked to vegetarianism around 1825, when a oumber of Chinese arrived to work in Thailand's tin mines. Thousands of devotees abstain

from meat, alcohol and sex for nine

days to purify body and spirit. They gather at Phuket's main Chinese temples each morning, work themselves into a trance, then thrust a hizarre array of objects through their bodies, usually the cheeks or arms.

Among the stranger items seen this year: a bowling trophy, a cymbal stand from a drum kit, a citizen's band radio antenna with the radio still attached, a musket, a tire iron and a faucet,

For larger objects, the devotees skewer their cheeks with stainless steel spikes to create a bole. They

remove it and insert the main object, which is sometimes greased to slide it through. The devotees, mostly young

men but also a significant comber

tongues with knives and swords and walk on hot coals. Omaments still dangling from their faces, they march through Phuket for a few hours, carrying images of the gods. Teams of sup-

porters wipe off blood running from the wounds. Afterward, they return to the

temples and the objects are extracted. Nurses disinfect the wounds, and ambulances are on standby to rush victims of shock to hospitals.

The aim of all this? To achieve good health and a peaceful state of

WOMEN WHO complain they lose their minds doring preg-

oancy may not be exaggerat-Pregnant womeo apparently of women, also lacerate their suffer from brain shrinkage and might not regain their full mental powers until six months after

is our land remons which the same old story with the same lander and the same are landed and the same giving birth, British scientists These are very early findings. but it may be that the two features are linked, wrote Anita Holdcroft, an anesthetist leading

the team reporting the findings.

Many women say their memories are impaired during pregnancy and complain of absent mindedoess, sometimes becoming the butt of male jokes. But Holdcroft said there might be a tangible reason for the firzi-

ness.

المكذا عن التَّعمل

مكدامل القصل

# Rise of the Shas-haredi hybrid

ne of the nice things about Judaism is that it has never had anything like a pope. Yet in the flap this week over rumors that police investigators might ask Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to testify in the Bar-On affair, Likud MK Shaul Amor went so far as to compare Yosef to

that lofty cleric. The Sephardi politician, who aspires to be the Likud's candidate for Israel's next president, warned that the police must take account of the near-blind adulation Yosef's half-a-million devotees heap upon

Now I have my doubts about whether the former Sephardi chief rabbi's fan club numbers anywhere near that many besomed followers. That Yosef and Shas have become powerful political realities, however, is beyond

But comparing a Jewish religious figure, even a highly revered one, to the pope must surely be foreign to any follower of mainstream Judaism, though our history has known aberra-

The rise of Hassidism in Eastern Europe three centuries ago led to the rise of "courts" in which, to this day, hassidim vie for the epiphany of touching their rebbe's hand or clothing, or catching crumbs from his table.

North African Jewry also has a tradition of holy men, which includes worshipping at the sites where they are buried. It is manifested locally in the cult of the Baba Sali and his con-man nephew, the Baba Baruch in the southern development town of

n the growing campaign against the planned Shabbat

closure of a shopping mall

soon to open in Ramat Aviv, the

most heartfelt objection is that

such a policy will violate the val-

ues and lifestyle of the local resi-

So this is what we've come to.

This is the new front in the battle

against religious coercion - stand-

ing up for the right of Ramat

Avivians not to have to look at a

"Closed" sign on Shabbat, for

their right to have all of their

weekend shopping options left

The tocals and their allies (mainly the media, specifically

Ha'aretz) would, of course,

about fighting off haredi

encroachment. It's about insisting

on mutual respect. We wouldn't

open a shopping mall on Shabbat

in Buei Brak, so they shouldn't

The residents are alarmed. They

close one on Shabbat over here."

hear "haredi," "Shabbat closure,"

and "Ramat Aviv," put them

together, and come up with "reli-

gious coercion." They're a little

shell-shocked; given the way haredim ordinarily behave in this

country, secular Israelis bave

become fairly jumpy.

But on the issue of the shopping

mall, the folks in this famously

secular, liberal, rich, snobbish

The facts in brief: Africa-Israel,

which is building the mall, origi-

nally intended to keep it open on

neighborhood have got it wrong.

"It's not about shopping, it's

protest that this is not the issue:

YOSEF GOELL

Ovadia Yosef's standing is of a higher order. It developed largely as a result of the deep resentment. many Sephardim felt over the rank discrimination practiced against them in Ashkenazi haredi circles. The leaders of these circles refused to recognize Yosef's halachic enudition and accord him the coveted title of maran (master), the highest

First and most importantly, nearly all haredi rabbis believe it to be

Secondly, haredi Judaism is against modernism, with which both democracy and Zionism are associated.

And thirdly, the basic democratic tenet that laws and leaders derive from the free choice of the

Alien to the vast majority of Sephardim, it is still ruling the Sephardi roost

So tell me – who's a coercer...?

LARRY DERFNER

dislikes.

rabbinical accolade.

Shas was founded jointly over 12 years ago by Yosef and Ashkenazi Rabbi Eliezer Schach. Schach needed Yosef and his Sephardim as allies against the hassidic takeover of Agudat Yisrael - but at the same time he made no secret of his disdain for Yosef's "second-class-Sephardi"

halachic learning.
Only when Yosef broke with the Ashkenazi haredim did Shas really come its own, burgeoning into a mass movement with its own far-flung alternative school system. In the last election it succeeded in electing 10 MKs, unprecedented for a haredi party.

IN the ongoing dehate over whether Orthodox Indaism can be compatible with democracy, it is generally accepted that its modern or Zionist version can, but haredi Judaism can't.

This assertion holds true for three reasons.

Shabbat. But a few months ago,

Bank Leumi sold its controlling

interest in the company to a hare-

di diamond merchant oamed Lev

Shabbat, the mall would rest.

eviev, and he decided that on

Under the banners of "free-

dom," and "democracy," Leviev's opponents are demanding that he

keep the mall's doors opeo seven

days a week - insisting that he run

his business the way they see fit,

obliging him to violate his reli-

gious beliefs so as not to sully the

people stands in diametric opposition to the concept of the maran,

whose sublime wisdom is the

source of all political decisions

and choices.

When Shas first arose, there was a legitimate dehate around whether it was largely a Sephardi protest movement representing a large number of not-particularlyreligious lower and lower-middle class Sephardim, or a new form of haredi politics led by a curious hybrid of Scphardi rahbis and politicians who were also hared-

It is now clear that the latter was the case. The Shas leadership has sought to exploit the resentment of large numbers of Sephardim who have been left behind in the rush to cmulate the worst aspects of American free-market capitalism, and have fallen victim to the growing income disparities that go with it.

Menachem Begin realized the potential of this resentment; be

precedence over their likes and

They should also realize that a

closed business on Shabbat does

not - or at least shouldn't - cause

offense in a secular neighborhood

in the same way an open business

on Shahbat causes offense in a

haredi neighborhood. Trying to

Finally, the idealists in Ramat

Aviv should understand that toler-

ance is painful. It means putting

equate the two is just spiteful.

built his power base on it.

Bnt Binyamin Nctanyahu's reborn Likud has totally abandoned any pretense of being a party which represents Israel's middle- and lower-income groups.

In this it is no different from Labor under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Despite the party's socialist heritage, the party became the repre-sentative of Israel's couveau - and not so nouveau - riche.

Sephardi Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami is currently contesting the leadership of the Labor party on an unabashed socioeconomic welfare platform. Should he make a successful showing - becoming, for example, No. 2 to Ebud Barak - it could turn the party into an effective alternative to Shas for the Sephardi vote.

David Levy could have presented Shas with a serious challenge of this nature, but he allowed his overweening pride to get in the way, and flubbed it.

Whether Shas's threat to Israeli democracy is permitted to grow further, or is reversed, will depend on whether its social and ethnic thunder gets stolen by new, nonharedi challengers.

The genetic engineering that created the highly unnatural Sephardi-haredi hybrid called Shas is very alien to the vast majority of Sephardim, who would likely be receptive to an alternative more attuned to traditional Sephardi religious modera-

In the meantime, however, Shas still rules the Sephardi roost.

The writer comments on current

Bnt McDonald's contracted to

open up there with the under-

standing that it would be free to

sell cheeseburgers and other

assorted McTreif. Now along

comes Leviev and tells

Here, he's gone too far.

# Joy, but the battle goes on

McDonald's: "It's my way, or no As March 8 approached, Imy telephone rang inces-Leviev has the right to close his building in keeping with his reli-gions beliefs - but he doesn't have santly. Reporters and editors wanted interviews and articles about women, to be published on the right to force those beliefs on or before International Women's his tenants, not when they signed contracts with Africa-Israel that Day, often in special supplements.

My daily pile of mail over-flowed with invitations to events marking the day. These ranged from a special Knesset session, through exhibitions of womeo's art and screenings of films by and aboot women, to carnivals of song and dance and stand-up comedy, where women of all shapes, sizes, ages and ethnic backgrounds

would let their hair down and just celebrate. Ten years ago, when I first suggested to Israel Radio that they devote International Womeo's Day to broadcasting women-relat-

ed items on Radio 2 (the "light" channel), they were incredulous. Who would want to listen? And.

anyway, what was there worth broadcasting? The following year they did us a favor, with a couple of items sandwiched between the regular pro-

grams and the news.

On that day in 1984 when a number of us decided to set up a nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to improving the status of women in Israel we "marched" on the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. where the two candidates for the premiership, Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, were negotiating on how to divide the four-year term of office between them.

We demanded that they meet ns and hear the petition for equality we were presenting to the newly elected Knesset and the government that was to be set up. Because announcement on the premiership was expected at any moment, the hotel was full of reporters, both local and foreign correspondents.

When we were finally granted an audience and I read out the list we had compiled, cameras rolled, microphones were pushed in front of us, and journalists scribbled m

**ALICE SHALVI** 

their notebooks. But that night, as we watched Israel Television in expectation of seeing the episode reported, we were disappointed.

A call to the producer of the newscast revealed that he had oot thought the item of interest to the general public. However, he told us to keep in touch and promised

Israeli women have But they still have far to go

that next time we did anything newsworthy, he would try and find room for it.

The next morning, only two newspapers carried a photo and a story - The Jerusalem Post and the New York Times. In the Post, we even made the front page!

The Hebrew press ignored us. Now - lo and behold! - women are newsworthy. In recent weeks, several major features have appeared - on Russian women immigrants, on gender bias in the Israel judicial system, on gender gaps in income-earning, on discrimination against women undergoing fertility treatment, on women training to be pilots in the Israel Air Force, and on a Supreme Court decision permitting single women to obtain ovum and sperm dona-

The media no longer present women solely as either victims or perpetrators of crimes. More and more women journalists are writing and broadcasting not only about women (something they were once reluctant to do, for fear of being labeled "one-track" reporters) but on economics, military affairs, and even

In one major newspaper, the crime reporter complained that he would soon be the only male left Israel Women's Network.

in what was only recently an area virtually closed to women.

ISRAELI women have come a long way. Bnt so much remains to be achieved.

We are still a tiny minority in high-ranking positions, whether in management, politics or the military. And we are cowhere to be seen in the world of Orthodox Judaism - at least, not in public.

There are no women rabbis or religious court judges, though an evergrowing nomber of women are devoting themselves to Torah studies. Since there is no actual prohibition in Halacha against women becoming rabbis, at least some of them, were they men, would be ordained.

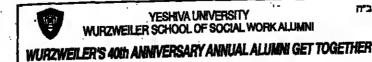
I doubt whether it would be possible in Jerusalem - which should be the spiritual and intellectual center of the Jewish people - to hold a conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy comparable to the one in New York in mid-February, which drew an astonishing crowd of about 1,000 mostly Orthodox women. They spent two days studying, listening, discussing, and openly criticizing the Orthodox rabbinate.

The one area in which Jewish women in Israel have made virtually no progress is Halacha, the Jewish oral law which determines what is permissible and what prohibited for an Orthodox Jew and, in Israel, a great deal of what is permissible and forbidden to all

Until the monopoly of the Orthodox in religious matters is disbanded, until we have a true separation of "church" and state, until the stranglehold of the religions parties is shaken off, we cannot attain true equality of the

And until then, the celebration of International Womeo's Day, however joyous, cannot be complete and wholehearted.

The writer is chairperson of the



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Studies for Women

**ESTHER WACHSMAN** 

tion. Somewhere along the line we have made popularity, rather than justice and morality, our aim.

As a teacher for over 25 years, I have often told my pupils, whom I prepare for their bagrut examinations, that I would rather do a good job and achieve my goal of teaching them English, than be popular. I have learned that, without a doubt, they respect and even pre-

fer that attitude and that goal to teachers who are - as the Education Ministry presented them - "friends for life." Our pupils have enough friends; they want their teachers to teach.

Like those of every country in the world, we must use our own best interest as a guide to policymaking. No other country determines its policies according to how they will be perceived abroad. Let us not delude ourselves into

thinking that even our greatest friend, the US, has our best interest at heart. What determines their position is what is good for America, and that is as it should be. The time has come for our counwill the nations say?"

for it only strengthens me by providing "ontside" coverage of our inner struggles; and I will pray that our leadership is granted the wisdom and the strength to do what's best for Israel and, yes, the Jows.

The writer's son Nahshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in

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> "Is it good for the Jews?" has become a politically incorrect ques-

They say confession is good for the soul. Well, I confess to reading Ha'aretz, the paper for "people who think,"

Almost every editorial in the paper deals with Israel's position in the international community. Israel's good standing in that community is regarded as its greatest achievement - and more than one editorial has praised the previous administration for the international status it achieved for our poor, beleaguered country.

every morning.

Even our current prime minister gained the paper's grudging admi-ration for the Hebron redeploy-

Ha'aretz is a mirror of any major world oewspaper. It is almost impossible to distinguish it as an Israeli paper that ought, perhaps, to report on Israeli interests.

When the government dared to approve construction on Har-Homa, Ha'aretz, like the rest of the world press, blasted the decision as endangering Israel's stams among the nations.

It's the same old story. When we give up our land, remove soldiers from our borders, allow Palestinian murderers to flee to Palestinian entities, we are lauded and much beloved by the outside world.

When, on the other hand, we intend to build a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem, refuse to leave the security zone unilaterally, demand the imprisonment - or, God forbid, extradition - of murderers, our popularity plummets.

concerned with democracy, they should realize that his right takes

the prerogative to close it on Whatever the sentiments of the

Shabbat, if that's what be decides. neighbors, Leviey has the right of religious freedom on his side, and if the people of Ramat Aviv are so

secular character of Ramat Aviv. There is talk of a boycott if Leviev This isn't resistance to religious coercion, it's secular coercion. Leviev is not trying to close down a public thoroughfare, he's not trying to tell people who they can character-builder. marry, or who is a Jew. Rather, be is

BUT there's a kicker in all this. the principal owner of the building that will house the mall, and he has

because they have the right to live stop you from doing the same. would be a great exercise in tolerance for Ramat Avivians, a real

While Ramat Aviv is practicing

secular coercion against Leviev, Leviev is indeed practicing religious coercion against another party to the conflict: McDonald's. In addition to insisting on his right to keep the building closed on Shabbat, Leviev is demanding

as they wish, as long as they don't Putting up with a haredi diamond merchant and his shopping mall

that the mall's restaurants all keep

up with people you doo't like say otherwise. But, Leviev may argue, it's his mall, so he can dictate the terms Is it the burghers of Ramat Aviv, who want of occupancy. If so, what's to stop him telling McDonald's waitresstheir mail open on Shabbat, or its owner. es to wear long sleeves and anklewho wants the McDonald's to keep kosher? length dresses, or make the waittomers?

ers offer to lay tefillin on cus-There are limits to the rights of ownership. By insisting on opening in the mall with a non-kosher menu, McDonald's is fighting for its right to freedom from religion,

and it deserves to win. Sort of talmudic, isn't it? McDonald's is in the right, Ramat Aviv is in the wrong - and Lev Leviev is a little of this, and a little of that.

So what's the moral? I don't know, except that maybe in this latest, most unseemly battle in Israel's culture war, we all deserve a break today.

The writer is a journalist living

Much more important than 'friends for life' try's leaders to be mature enough - as my 12th-graders are - to make decisions which are in our own best interest, and to stop their preoccupation with that age-old question of Jews in exile: "What

I will continue to read Ha' aretz,

# **WORLD ORT UNION**

mourns the passing of

# **BELLA SEBBA**

and extends deepest condolences to Sam Sebba and his children

Dr. Eilen Isler, Director General, World ORT Union

The Board and Staff of מכון מאמים SUMMIT INSTITUTE עמותה לשיקום פסיכוסוציאלי למתבגרים ומבוגרים express sincere condolences to Sam Sebba and family on the loss of his wife

BELLA 577

הסקום ינדם אתכם כתוך אבלי ציון וירושלים

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our chairman and colleague

# MAURICE RINBERG 5"3

He will be sadly missed.

By all the residents, members and staff of the Va'ad Habayit 10-16 Sderot Nitza, Netanya

Our beloved

# Dr. BERTA (Bertel) ENGEL has left us to join her beloved

Hans Engel 577

The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 7, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sde Yehoshua Cemetery (Kfar Samir), Haifa, Gate 3 (Tamar)

Ruti and Asher Or and family Dani and Irit Fuchs and family Pauli, Ya'acov and Miri Winternitz and family Ruti Blank and family Eric Welss and family and all those who love her

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear

### **MIRIAM WEISSELBERGER-RICHTER**

The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 7, 1997, at 11:15 a.m. at the old Hof Hacarmel Cemetery in Haifa. We will meet at the cemetery's main gate.

> Mourned by: Hanita and Tiby Frolingher and children Magda and Yohanan Gabriel and children

To Doreen Black and family

Sincere condolences on the passing of your father and grandfather

# **REUVEN ADELMAN**

We will miss you, Dad.

June Kochman, Karmiel

On the shloshim after the passing of my beloved husband

# **ISAAC SUDAT**

The unveiling of the tombstone will take place at the Yarkon Cemetery on Tuesday, March 11, 1997 (2 Adar II) at 4 p.m. His wife, Zeira Sudat, and family

On the shloshim after the passing of our beloved

# **ARLINE GRUDER 577**

The unveiling will take place at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Givat Shaul, on Tuesday, March 11, 1997 at 3:30 p.m.

The Family



The American Committee for Shenkar College in Israel

deeply mourns the passing of

# **LOLA BEER-EBNER**

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# Yeltsin **VOWS** shakeup

MOSCOW (AP) — A brisk President Boris Yelisin, moving to reassert his authority after months of illness, pledged a major government shakeup and called yesterday for wide-ranging reforms to pull Russia out of its economic morass.

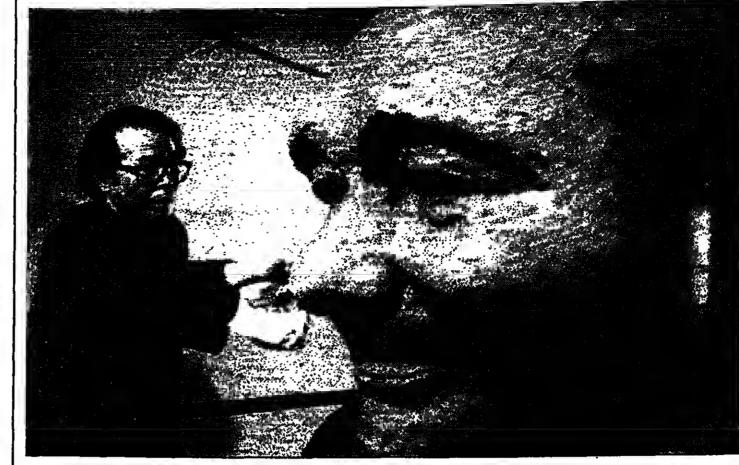
Yeltsin, addressing both houses of parliament in a nationally televised speech, acknowledged that Russia was "still struggling in a flood of problems. We haven't been able to reach the far bank." Looking healthy and speaking clearly and strongly in a 25-minute speech, Yeltsin vowed to focus on economic problems in a bid to breathe life into Russia's economy, which has contracted for six straight years.

The speech was the strongest sign yet that the 66-year-old Yeltsin is making a full recovery from heart surgery and pneumonia that have kept him out of the Kremlin or on a scaled-back schedule since last July. However, Yeltsin has never

shown much inclination for the nutsand-bolts work of running the government and did not provide specific solutions yesterday for pressing problems such as the millions of state workers and pensioners who haven't been paid for months.

He excoriated the government and accused unidentified officials in his administration of a wide assortment of sins - corruption, laziness and irresponsibility among them.

"The government is growing fat," a stem-faced Yeltsin said. "I am not satisfied with the government."



### **Big Brother**

Chinese sculptor Bai Lan Sheng puts the final touches on a mold for his statue of former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in Beijing yesterday. Bai has been working on the statue since 1984. It will be erected in Shenzhen.

# Albanian rebels halt army

News agencies

SARANDA, Albania Militants dynamited a bridge near the Greek border yesterday to pre-

We are sad to announce the passing of our dear, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

# FREDA YAMPOLSKI 5"

The funeral will take place on Sunday, March 9 in Montreal, Canada.

> Felgle and Rubin Zimmerman and the entire family

Our deepest sympathy to our chairperson Feigie Zimmerman

# FREDA ע"מ

israel Vocal Arts institute **Executive Committee** 

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extends sincere condolences to

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on the passing of her beloved mother

### FREDA YAMPOLSKI 577

**Harvey Wolfe** President

Steven Ain

**Executive Vice President** 

Chairman, IRC Amnon Shinar Director General

Max Blankstein

AMCHA - National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation

On the thirtieth day of the passing of

# MANFRED KLAFTER 5"

we will gather to honor his memory on Sunday, March 9, 1997, at 7 p.m. at the Bible Lands Museum, 25 Granot Street, Jerusalem

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather

### Rabbi AKIVA CHILL 5"1

The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 7, at approximately 2 p.m., at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery in Givat Shaul (one hour following the arrival of El Al flight 008)

Wife, Dorothy Chill Son, Rebbi Sheul Chill Daughter, Marilyn Glowitz Brother, Rabbi Abraham Chill Sister, Teme Goldman and grandchildren

For further details please call 02-561-7577

vent the Albanian army from mov-ing tanks toward towns controlled by protesters. The protesters blew a four-meter wide crater in a small stone bridge

spanning a ravine just seven km

from the border and on the road to the port city of Saranda.

Cars could drive through the crater, but it was large and deep enough that four government tanks located nearby could not pass.

In Brussels, diplomats said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo will urge all parties in Albania to show maximum restraint and respect human rights during a visit to the tiny Balkan state today, diplomats said.

It is important to start a dialogue between all political forces," one diplomat told reporters following a meeting yesterday of senior offi-cials from the 15 European Union countries

He will stress also that the state of emergency must not be used to curb basic rights," he added.

Van Mierlo, whose country cur-rently holds the EU presidency,

# Peru rebels call off talks

LIMA (AP) - The leader of rebels holding 72 hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence called off talks yesterday, accusing police of digging a tunnel under the building.
The leader, Nestor Cerpa, made

the statement after the ninth round of negotiations with the government.

A tenth round had been scheduled for today. "We are not going to take part tomorrow," he said. He accused police of digging a tunnel under the residence where the hostages have been held since

the rebels took over a posh diplo-

matic reception there on Dec. 17. We woke up the bostages so they could listen to the noise" of the digging, Cerpa said. It appeared to be a sharp setback to the talks, which ended the preliminary phase with promises to begin

concrete proposals.
"We don't believe it is correct that on one hand dialogue is spoken of and on the other this type of thing goes on," Cerpa said.

# U.N. to lead **Cyprus** talks

NICOSIA (AP) - Cyprus Greek and Turkish leaders will open intensive, indirect talks Monday through the United Nations on reuniting this war-divided island, a government spokesman said yes-

Yannakis Cassoulides said Gustave Feissel, a representative of the UN secretary-general, will tead the talks. He will deliver messages between Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash. Feissel is expected to make

repeated trips across the UN buffer zone splitting the island in preparation for a possible direct meeting by the two leaders, Cassoulides said. He called the indirect talks "the

preparatory stage for the establishment of common ground" leading to a summit.

### organizing defenses. Hundreds of armed militants man roadblocks into the port and bave positioned three tanks at

has been trying to set up commu-nications links with other cities,

such as Vlore, that are no longer

Under the guidance of the group, residents of Saranda have been

steadily fortifying their town and

under government control.

some of its entrances. They have also reinforced the barricades with anti-aircraft weapons.

Albania's army has been positioning troops at various points north and south of the rebel towns in an

apparent effort to isolate them and block their communication. The towns include Saranda, Vlore and Livina, where Albanian troops on Wednesday clashed with protesters. According to foreign journalists, about 300 troops have also assembled at Gjiokastra, 20 km north of

Saranda. They said four army tanks bave been seen nimbling through the town in an attempt to intimidate residents and prevent

# WORLD

will deliver a message bolding out the prospect of more economic

assistance if dialogue can take

Meanwhile, according to a

report on Greece's Skai television

network, militants in Saranda also

blew up a main bridge just north

of the town to prevent Albanian

troops from entering the port.

More than 5,000 people chanti-

ng "Saranda, Saranda" flooded its

streets overnight, after hearing

nimors that the army was going to

use landing craft to enter the port.

aboard seven torpedo boats seized

from a naval base and began firing

into the air as they searched for the

committees have also been formed

in Saranda to deal with civilian

Protesters say the defense group is made up of three former mili-

tary officers and seven community

The insurgent group has

imposed an overnight curfew and

Residents say that two informal

purported landing craft.

and military affairs,

Skai said protesters took to sea

place in a spirit of reconciliation.

in brief

### More than 200 killed in Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO (Reuter) - Tamil Tiger rebels struck back at Sri Lankan forces in pre-dawn attacks on two bases in the island's east, killing at least 49 soldiers but losing 160 of their own fighters, military officials said. The rebels overran a small army camp in eastern Batticaloa district and attacked an air force base in Trincomalee district, destroying a transport plane.

# Guyana leader dies, successor chosen

GEORGETOWN (AP) - Prime Minister Samuel Hinds was sworn in as president just hours after President Cheddi Jagan died in a Washington hospital. Hinds, an agro-chemical engineer, was a political unknown before he teamed up with Jagan in 1992 elections. Under the constitution, he was next-in-line to succeed Jagan. Hinds, 53, was sworn in at 6.30 a.m.

# No wedding bells for Mandela

SINGAPORE (AP) - South African President Nelson Mandela says he will keep bringing girlfriend Graca Machel along on foreign trips, but wedding bells are unlikely soon. Mandela, on the third leg of a four-nation trip, told reporters if the officials who plan his travel "do not object to any association which I have, I may continue as I have done now." Mandela's romance with Mrs. Machel, the 51-year-old former first lady of Mozambique, was made public last year.

### Bomb blast in Belfast

BELFAST (AP) — A bomb exploded in a garden in a Catholic area of west Belfast, police said. No one was injured, although a joint patrol of police and soldiers was passing nearby at the time, said a spokesman for the Royal Ulster

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-trig.-Gen. (Re fehuda Gavi

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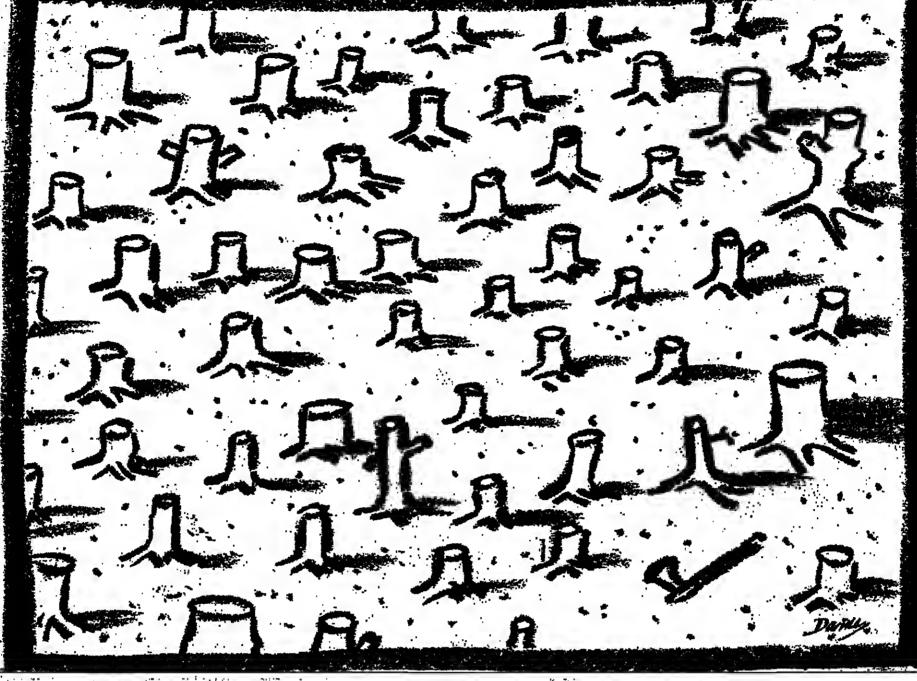
# NEWSinFOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, March 7, 1997

# Ummarked graves

arring last-minute developments, Gad Levy and his wife, Hanna, were due yes-terday to stand beside the blank tombstone of their son, Shilo, who died in the helicopter crash at She ar Yashuv on February 4 and is buried in the Karnei

What should be inscribed on the headstones of the 73 soldiers killed in the helicopter crash? Some parents prefer to leave the tombs blank rather than accept the Defense Ministry's standard wording. Dan izenberg reports



many as 40 of the 73 families "What makes a military

cemetery so

no lenger

The .

Shomron cemetery.
Thursday marked the 30th day

since Shilo's funeral, when the Defense Ministry traditionally

univeils the tombstones of deceased soldiers.

But because of a bitter dispute

Unit,

between Levy and the Defense

bereaved father preferred, for the

time being, to leave the tomb-

stone hlank despite the special significance of the day.

Levy angrily rejected the wording of the unit's inscription stations day and the coldinary had

ing that each of the soldiers had died "in the line of duty in the

helicopter crash over She'ar

Yashuv." The formula "died in

the line of dnty" is the standard

wording used hy the unit to

describe the case of soldiers who

The Levys were not the only

family offended by the inscrip-

tion. In the past two weeks, as

have died in military accidents.

Ministry's

Commemoration

dignified is that there is no difference between one

grave and the next."

> -Brig.-Gen. (Res) Yehuda Gavish

have voiced their criticism, and so far 15 bave submitted appeals asking for the inscription to be

By midweek, almost all the families had agreed to a compromise whereby the headstone with the original inscription would be installed on the 30th day after the crash, on the understanding that soon afterwards, the Public Council to Commemorate Soldiers would convene to hear the appeals. If the council accepts them, the headstones will be replaced accordingly.

THE SOLDIER Commemoration Unit is in charge of Israel's military cemeteries.

One of its duties is to prepare the tombstones for fallen soldiers based on the longstanding principle that all soldiers who die in uniform, regardless of rank, age, unit or cause of death, are equal and should be remembered in the same way.

That cherished principle of equality based on uniformity was first challenged by the family of Corporal Eran Wechselbaum, who died in a training accident at Tze'elim in 1992. The family wanted to add the words "brother of Jackie, Limor and Adi" to the standard IDF inscription.

The Defense Ministry refused. However, on March 27, 1995, a five-justice Supreme Court panel urged the minister of defense to allow the Wechselbaums to engrave a personal inscription somewhere on the tomhstone. Recognizing the growing individualism in Israeli society. Justice Shlomo Levin argued that norma-

tive law rejected the total paternalism of the state in this issue. Perhaps the matter before us should teach that complete uniformity of inscriptions is an fallen are not prepared to accept," he wrote.

In the wake of his ruling, the Knesset passed an amendment to the Military Cemeteries Law allowing families to add two lines of personal inscription on the tombstone itself, but not on the headstone, where the personal details and circumstances of death appear. The formula for the headstone remained rigid and

Now, two years later, the fami-lies of the fallen soldiers want to take the matter much further. Not only do they seek changes in the headstone, but the changes they propose refer to the military activities of their children rather than particular hiographical details as in the Wechselbaum

Levy wants Shilo's inscription to read: "Fell in the helicopter tragedy on his way to fulfill a mission in Lebanon to defend the northern border settlements, the nation and the land,"

"Shilo volunteered to serve in a battle unit out of a sense of mission and belief that he must he prepared to give his life for his people and country," his father wrote the president, the defense minister, the chief of general staff and the chairman of the Knesset

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "During all his years of military action, he risked his life serving in a front-line outpost in southern Lebanon."

> Left unspoken, but clearly implied, is the fact that unlike many other soldiers serving in the IDF, and many others in the same age bracket not serving at all, his son, and the other 72 victims of the helicopter crash, put their lives on the line and deserve to be honored and remembered for

> RAMI AND Tami Gonen, whose son Aviv was killed in the crash, held out against the Soldier

Commemoration Unit until almost the last day, when its head, Na'aman Skhayek, agreed that instead of the entire inscription. the tombstone inscription would state\_only

duty."
That mollified the family which had been incensed by the term "helicopter accident" in the original inscription.

"These words are as good proof as the testimony of 1,000 witnesses that the death of their son was not inevitable and that it bad no meaning," their attorney, Shlomo Arvatz, wrote Skhayek. 'It makes them feel that the precious sacrifice of their son and

their own sacrifice was for noth-

At first, Skhayek rejected the request to include only Aviv's hiographical details according to the Defense Ministry's rigid formula, and omit all mention of the circumstances of his death. According to Arvatz, Skhayek refused, saying he could not per-form "half-finished work."

However, the publicity over the affair in the media this week seems to have softened Skhayek's stand and he agreed to omit the offending words. The Gonens, meanwhile, are drafting their own inscription and will ask the Public Council to approve it.

Other families - including the parents of Assaf Rothenberg, Erez Shtark, Michael Katz, Saguy Arazi, Shai Abukasis and Tzafrir Sharoni, all of whom spoke to The Jerusalem Post - bave criticized the inscription on their sons' tombstones and hope to change them retroactively.

They may find, however, that it

is not so easy.

The new head of the Public Council for the Commemoration of the Soldier, Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Yehuda Gavish, strongly opposes changing the tradition of uniformity in military cemeteries. Gavish, and all the other members of the public council, have

lost children who were serving it

the army. "I understand bow these bereaved parents feel, hut I don't understand their approach and I don't think they are right," he said. What makes a military cemetery so dignified, as opposed to a civilian cemetery, is that there is no difference between one grave and the next. You'll see that exactly the same words are

common was that all of them died in defense of the homeland." Gavish explained that there are three types of inscriptions. "Died in battle," for soldiers killed in fighting, "died in the line of duty" for solders killed in military accidents, and "died during military

written on the grave of a general and a private. That's a great thing.

The cemeteries should not

emphasize the differences but

rather what the solders had in

common and what they had in

service" for other types of deaths. The tomhstone of O/C Central Command Mai.-Gen. Nehemia Tamari, who was killed in a 1994 helicopter accident, states only. that he "died in the line of duty". even though he had a glorious military career and fought in many more battles than the vic-

"These words are as good proof as the testimony of 1,000 witnesses that the death of their son was not inevitable and that it had no meaning."

tims of the She'ar Yashuv crash, said Gavish. "This is the fairest. way to do it he added. "It doesn't discriminate against

Gavisb said the difference between him and other members of the Public Council and the newly bereaved families is the amount of time that has elapsed

since the tragedy. "One is traumatized after such a loss," he said. "Everything else loses all importance. In time,however, you realize that other. factors must also be taken into

account." But Gavish is only one vote. The Council will meet to decide: on the parents' appeals some timeover the next two weeks.

Under the circumstances, the meeting could not be anything but heartbreaking.

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Unnicipality of Jerusalem

We are pleased to announce the opening of registration for the Jerusalem Marathon. The race will take place on Tuesday, 8 April 1997.

There will be three race tracks: A- Half Marathon 21,100 m B- Mini Marathon 4,200 m C-Popular Fan Race 2,100 m

The races will begin at 10:00 am.

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ublic

# Aryeh Deri, superstar

-R-Y-E-H D-E-R-I," the MC shouted in a Tuesday night at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliahu stadium, as if be was introducing a sports star - a basketball player, maybe a boxer.

The crowd responded in kind. They jumped to their feet, clapped, yelled their approval, and started a rhythmic chant of "Arych, Arych,

To an outsider this seemed a rather odd way to greet a man who is at the center of the alleged Bar-On Affair, A man who, indeed, has been at the center of any number of alleged affairs and questionable political maneuvers over the last

in the hall, and for the tens of thou-

sands of Shas supporters who

remained at home, Deri is not so

much a politician under a heavy

cloud, as he is the "Prince of

That, at least, is the title

bestowed upon him by newly reli-

gious singer Benny Elbaz in a

radio interview this week. "The

Prince of Sephardi Jewry," Elbaz

Elbaz also composed a song to

Deri. "Rabbi Deri the righteous

one, who brings merit to the mass-

Sephardi Jewry.'

said. "Exactly that."

He may be at the center of a handful of scandals, but to thousands of his fans, the 'righteous one' can do no wrong. Herb Kelnon reports

ting a Sephardi liturgical poem.
"He will not stop nor cease spreading Torah for its own sake. What wealth and fortune that we have such a righteous man. Rabbi Aryeh, the righteous one who brings merit to the masses."

But for the 8,000 Shas loyalists THOSE NOT counted among Shas

Deri, seen by Shas loyalists as the 'Prince of Sephardi Jewry,' with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

and think, "What planet is Elbaz

living on?" But the sentiments

reflect the attitude of a not insub-

stantial part of the population, a

part of the population for whom

allegations of wrongdoing against

Deri, and against Shas, only lead

them to support the party with

Just after the elections in May,

when Shas was expected to lose

Knesset seats, Ami Eluz, coordina-

tor of Chas's campaign in the

North, said the Shas voter is well

more vigor.

tion, but feels they are transparent attempts by the establishment to

"stick it" to Shas. "Everyone does these things." Eluz argued. "People saw that the Deri case has dragged on for five years, and they came to the conclusion that there is nothing against him, and that the whole case is just an attempt to stick it to him and

Shas for their success."

These same words were repeated

It was difficult, sitting in the

sports arena, watching as the

eclectic crowd - ranging from

young men with kippot propped

atop heads sporting pony-tails, to others wearing black fell kippot and black leather jackets, to the

stereotypical yeshiva student in

jacket and fedora - not to think

American blacks are convinced of

Simpson's innocence, so to those

in the arena, who sang 'Don't fear,

Arych, Don't fear" with great con-

viction, believe that Deri is guilty

of no wrongdoing - neither io the

court case against him, nor for his

alleged role in the Bar-On Affair.

Just as America's blacks have lit-

tle trust in the judicial system, so -

it seems - does the average Shas

voter have little trust that the

police or courts will deal fairly

In America the Simpson trial

drew the lines between blacks and

whites. Deri's various affairs have

clearly drawn the lines between

Ashkenazim and religious-bul not

Which was part of the reason

there was so much anger in Shas at

reports that Rabbi Ovadia Yosef

would be questioned by the police.

True, the prime minister may have

been questioned, as was the presi-

dent of the Supreme Court. The

ineumbent Sephardi ehlef rabbi

may even have offered only last

week to be questioned by the

police on a different matter, but to

question Yosef was out of the

question. It was an affront to the

only religious - Sephardim.

about O.J. Simpson.

with their leaders.

over and over by supporters at Yad

for a night of "prayer and purity" marking the end of the 30-day mourning period for the victims of the helicopter crash, could roughly be divided into those who don't think there is a basis to any of the oumerous allegations against Deri and Shas, and those who believe that there may have been some questionable moves on Deri's part, but that they are not worse than the political norms in the country. The latter category feels Deri is being singled out because he is Sephardi and religious.

to the whole religious Sephardi

THOSE IN Yad Eliahu gathered

and religious.

The numerous allegations do not seem to have shaken the support for the party or Deri. If anything, this support seemed to have been strengthened. A comrade is not left wounded in the field.

There is also a third camp, but not a camp that was represented in strength at Yad Eliahu. This is the camp centered around Rabbi Reuven Elbaz, and his student MK Shlomo Benizri. They are considered Deri's rivals. One activist from this camp said that inside the party there are a growing number of people resentful of Deri, mainly because his alleged involvement in any numbers of affairs is bringing Rabbi Yosef into the mire.

If this is true, however, it is hard to discern on the ground. There are constantly rumors of dissatisfaction loward Deri in the party, but so far there is little evidence to back this up. Deri still has Yosef's trust, evidenced by the way the rabbi warmly spoke of him at the Yad Eliahu gathering. As long as Deri enjoys that trust and support - born of a long, difficult political journey traveled together - it is difficult to imagine that his position inside the party will diminish.

bedeviled, like no other party, by charges of corruption. From Deri to Levy to Raphael Pinhasi, the party and its leaders are covered as much in the press by police and iudicial reporters, as they are by political and religious-affairs corspondents.

Today the party has 10 mandates, making it the third biggest party in the country. This despite seven years of the Deri Affair, despite the disapproval of Rabbi Eliezer

It was difficult O.J. Simpson.

Yair Levy - who ended up in jail.

The reason is simply because Deri understands his voters, what troubles them, what is important to them, what they need, and what they want to hear. He has no shame in playing the "ethnic card"; he plays it well, and plays it to the hilt. Much is constantly made of the

despite the never-ending problems

Sephardi rift is deep and wide.

n the aftermath of the War of not shown on the accompanying Another 5 percent of territory - a five- to 10-kilometer-wide strip

along the lower Jordan River and Dead Sea coast - would be leased for 25 years to guarantee against elandestine infiltration of tanks and artillery. When the lease ends, the arrangement would be reexamined by the two sides. Weitz proposes annexation of the Katif Bloc in the Gaza Strip to prevent physical linkup between the strip and Egypt and the geo-political consequences that might ensue. Of 140,000 Israelis presently liviog across the greeo line, about 110,000 would be

included in the annexed territory. Jerusalem: Proposals for the site of a Palestinian capital have hitherto focussed on Abu Dis, a built-up suburb contiguous to eastern Jerusalem. Weitz proposes instead a site northeast of the city, a desertedge tract still undeveloped except

demolition of the Arab villages -"I've surveyed all around Jerusalem and this is the only area continues to be a model studied by where there is room enough for a regional planners around the modern capital," says Weltz. The Palestinian state, he says, will "There's nothing ironic about my making this proposal," said Weitz number more than three million inhabitants in a decade and require this week. "I knew from the moment I heard the UN vote to a capital with at least 10 percent of that nomber in order to provide the partition the country on the radio in 1947 that it was the right decision. necessary bureaucratic infrastruc-

The site he proposes includes more than 15,000 dunams of open space for public building, comparable to the Givat Ram area which accommodates Israel's govern-meot center, the Hebrew University campus and the Israel Museum. It would also include res-

Jerusalem within its present boundaries, including the Old City, would remain under Israeli sovereignty except for those all-Arab neighborhoods on the eastern fringe of the city which, offered a choice of being part of Jerusalem or al-Quds, choose the latter. A special council would be set up for the Old City with elected representatives of the Jewish, Moslem and Christian communities living with-

in the walls. The council would deal with the holy places and other problems particular to the Old City and be headed by the mayor of Jerusalem. His deputy would be

the mayor of al-Quds. · Arab refugees: There can be no stable peace, says Weitz, without resolution of the Arab refugee problem. Of some 2.5 million Palestinians living abroad, he says, an estimated 600,000-700,000 living in distress in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan would settle in the Palestinian state. None would be permitted to return to

Israel. "That is history," he says. · Litani water: To provide water for their increased population, the Palestinians would negotiate with Lebanon for the annual diversion of 400 million cubic meters from the Litani River which presently flow unused to the sea. The water would be carried by a tunnel from the "knee" of the Litani, below Israel and Israel would transfer the same amount of water to the Palestinians from the National

Water Carrier. The water would be piped to al-Quds and also permit substantial expansion of irrigated areas, particularly in the Jenin and south Hebron Hills regions and the Gaza Strip. The Lebanese would likely agree to such a plan, says Weitz, because it would be part of an overall settlement that would rid them of the Palestinian refugees.

Noting the proposal by Yossi Beilin to transfer to the Palestinians part of the Halutza Sands in the western Negev, Weitz says this area could be made as productive as the Katif Bloc - "the spearbead of modern Israeli agriculture" - if water from the Litani were available.

Page 1

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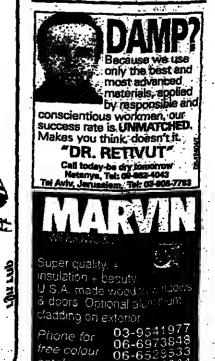
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· Roads: A road raised on pillars, some 40 kilometers long, would connect the Gaza Strip and the Hebron area. There would be access only at either end so that traffic between the two wings of the Palestinian state would not enter Israel. A similar Palestinianonly raised road would link the northern part of the new state with the King Abdullah Bridge on a

route past Beit She'an." Likewise, the present timnelbridge link between Jerusalem and the Etzion Bloc and Efrat would serve Israeli traffic that does not touch the Palestinian road system.

Continued on next page





Ra'anan Weitz: "There's nothing ironic about my making this proposal."

Independence, Ra'anan Weitz

began to draw the new map of Israel by demolishing 300 aban-

doned Arab villages from the

Negev to the Galilee. As director of

the Jewish Agency Settlement

Department, he leveled them - joy-

fully, he acknowledges - to make way for 500 moshavim and kib-

butzim that would provide the

country with its geographical

sinews and provide homes for masses of immigrants pouring into

Today, at age 84, the man who plowed Palestine into the earth has

drawn up a development plan for a

Although a number of scenarios

bave already been advanced by

academics and politicians for a

"final status" arrangement between

Israel and the Palestinians, any

proposal by Ra'anan Weitz merits

special attention. His settlement

the "tabula rasa" created by the

world, from China to Chile.

There had to be two states."

put on the public agenda.

highlights:

His outline, which he has pre-sented to the Labor Party leader-

ship for study ("I'm convinced we

will soon have a national unity

government," he says), includes

innovations that have not yet been

FOLLOWING ARE some of its

· Annexation: Weitz calls for

annexation of 5 percent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This includes

a wedge of territory between the Green Line and Ariel, the Latrun

salient, the Etzion Bloc and small-

er areas along the Green Line

where settlements can be incorpo-

rated into Israel without the taking

of land inhabited by Arabs. (The

latter takings are so small they are

Palestinian state alongside Israel.

the country.

# A two-state solution was always to be

The man who 50 years ago plowed Palestine. into the earth has today drawn up a development plan for a Palestinian state. **Abraham Rabinovich** reports

SINCE Shas first appeared on the national scene in 1984 and won four Knesset seats, the party has thrived on adversity. Throughout the years it has been

Schach and the Ashkenazi haredi establishment, despite seemingly alienating its natural constituency by supporting the Oslo accords and joining a government with Labor and Meretz, and despite an MK -

haredi-secular rift in the country, while Ashkenazi-Sephardi tensions are largely considered a thing of the past.

afflicting Deri, should be seen as

despite everything, in any other

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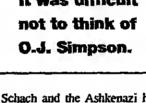
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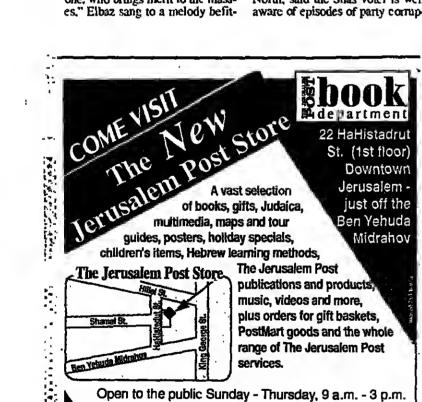
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on the Internet:



But Sbas's continued success,

an indication that the Ashkenazi-It is difficult to explain Shas and Deri's continued popularity,



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# TWO-STATE SOLUTION Continued from previous page

Palestinian Investment of \$25 billion in the есолоту: Palestinian entity over the next decade, according to an economic model proposed by Weitz, would see Palestinian GNP per capita more than double to \$4,100. Large-scale public works would provide employment to 70,000 persons who now work in Israel and many others. Only 20,000 Palestinians would continue to work in Israel by 2005.

• Israeli settlers: The 20,000-30,000 Israelis whose settlements would lie inside the Palestinian state would have the option of either returning to Israel with compensation or remaining in the setticments as Israeli citizens subject to the laws of Palestine.

Any settlement completely vacated would not be demolished - "We don't want a repeat of the Yamit trauma" - but transferred to the Palestinians after negotiations. Weitz envisions those Israeli settlers who choose to remain in Palestine participating actively, perhaps even enthusiastically, in the development of the Palestinian

"WHY NOT?" he says. "This is the best expression of peace." Weitz notes that students he lectured to in Alsace-Lorraine, the object of repeated bloody wars between France and Germany, were bilingual and no longer party to old hostilities.

"You can't imagine what 25 years of peace will bring here," he says, shifting with excitement in

thes and other

in the Old City

the mayor of

Work by

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Brak refugee

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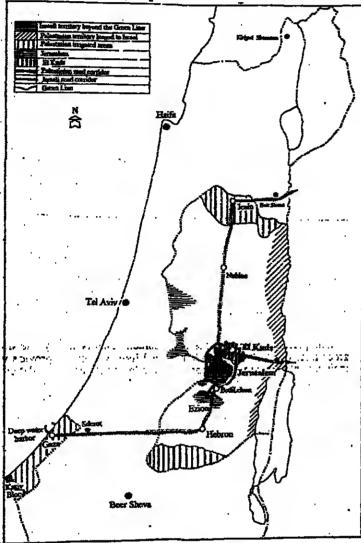
500 settlements, including their physical and economic base, was not only approved but, in time, proved itself.

"It was implemented 70 percent in some areas and in others 100 percent," says Weitz. "Our economic growth over 23 years averaged 10 percent annually. No country has ever matched that, not

even Japan," His role in the destruction of the empty Arab villages five decades ago has left Weitz with no feeling of discomfort. "I felt elation at the time and did not think about the fate of the Arab refugees. We had accepted the partition plan. The Arabs did not and they tried to destroy us. There had been a terri-

"Every family lost someone, including ours. We lost Yehiam. [His brother, Yehiam, had been killed with 10 other members of his Palmah unit at Gesher Haziv on "the night of the bridges" in 1946.] I think about him to this

day."
The Settlement Department directed some of the immigrants arriving in 1948 to abandoned Arab villages but already in the first winter the mud-brick structures began to give way under the rains. "All the villages from the Negev to Haifa were built of mud brick," says Weitz. Villages in the hills had stone structures which proved somewhat more sturdy but these too did not hold up long. Vast tent encampments were erected instead for the immigrants while the new settlements were being



Weitz's two-state plan

his chair. "The changes will start

almost immediately." The skills that Russian immigrants and other Israeli settlers can provide - from surveying to engineering and computer programming - will be urgently needed by the Palestinian authorities. "Can you imagine what work the Palestinians have ahead of them in the next 15 years? They will have

to do what we did." What was done by Weitz and his contemporaries in laying down the country's physical structure and absorbing the mass immigration of the early 1950s will always remain one of Israel's brightest hours. In the winter of 1948, with the War of Independence not yet over, Weitz was dispatched to Washington to present to the Export Bank the regional development plan he had drawn np for the new state under the direction of Levi Eshkol, then chairman of the Settlement

Department. Upon approval of the plan by American experts hinged Israel's request for a \$100 million loan. The ambitious 25-year plan for

"I am one of those fortunate enough to have seen their dream come true," says Weitz. "We had carte blanche to plan the most beautiful and best planned country in the world. And we did."

Behind his current plan outlining the structure of a Palestinian state lies a different dream. As a child in Rehovot, he recalls, he had regularly played with children from the neighboring Arab village of Zamuka. "This may be the basis for my understanding when I grew np that all people are born equal. The more I delve into the details of this plan, the more I feel a strange calmness. It is a tranquillity that carries the scent of the land I grew up in. I find myself drifting back to my childhood and the sense of simple values and belonging.

"My friends know me as a dreamer and visionary and when I sometimes raise these thoughts they laugh. But this time I am not dealing with dreams or visions but with a clear-eyed view of the future. To my mind, there is no

# The last straw

The GSS assessment that there will not be a violent **Palestinian** reaction to the government decision on Har Homa could prove to be wrong, Jon **immanuel** reports

n Monday, the West Bank was on strike, the shutters were down in Bethlehem and soldiers at the checkpoints refused to let Israelis cnter. "We know they're looking to attack Israelis. They planned to march on Rachel's Thmb. They put aside tires for burning. Only the rain stopped them," an IDF officer said

The tension of the moment seemed to grip the soldiers more than the angry townspeople. A fcw meters away, Arab workers continued working on the the Israeli fortress wall around Rachel's Tomb, which had itself been the focus of vinlent demonstrations in

The protest, legislated by the Palestinian Council, provided a perfect backdrop tn the Palestinian Authority head's Washington visit. Arafat could portray himself as the man who was saving the peace process, three years after the peace process first saved him. "Is it necessary to challenge the peace process, and in this critical and dangerous situation to build a new settlement?" he asked at the National Press Club in Washington.

To start building on Har Homa just before Jerusalem is to come np for discussion in final-status negotiations looks provocative to Palestinians because it is not an extension of an existing Jerusalem suburb, hut a brand-new project. It sits strategically astride a line



Masked Palestinian students raise the Palestinian flag while burning the Israeli flag during a demonstration against plans to build at Har Homa at Bethlehem University.

Dis, on the edge of the Old City, in Dis. area B. It gets in the way of expanding the Yossi Beilin-Abn Mazen formula in which a separate Palestinian Jerusalem would build there now is seen as an

from Bethlehem in area A to Abu he established based around Abu

For that very reason it is not surprising that this government would want to huild there. But to

Arab population at the 11th hour to preempt the final-status talks on Jerusalem, which are scheduled to begin in one week. It is too late to

attempt to change the demograph-

ic distribution of the Jewish and

change facts on the ground, but it is not too late to turn international opinion against Israel for trying.

Yasser Arafat, who rarely makes a speech without referring to Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state, was distraught by the government's decision, which he said opposed an understanding he had with the previous government. Unlike the reactions to the Hasmonean tunnel opening which came first from the Wakf and quickly ignited popular feeling, the first and sharpest reactions to Har Homa came from his inner circle. Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, the PA Cabinet secretary, sitting next to the presidential office in Gaza, called it "an explosive fireball which could swallow the peace process."

Arafat himself has not used such red-blooded language. He has however exploited the opportunity to win more diplnmatic backing from all the important quarters the US, Europe, and the UN. His diplomatic advantage is strengthened by the threat of violence created by the situation which will hang over the talks.

Arafat's plan, according to Israeli military assessments, is not to violently escalate the situation on Har Homa but "to build up a case" against Israeli policies step by step, through demonstrations, until the international community intervenes. The march on Jerusalem planned for today is the first step. Only if it completely flnps for lack of genuine popular anger will Arafat lose face.

But if Arafat is tempted to overdo it. Israel has cleared the diplomatic field for him. For the US administration, Har Homa is a violation of the Oslo accords and to US Christians he says it is "part of Bethlehem." In the UN it is of course a violation of UN resolutions. To the Arah League he says it will cut off Moslems from Al-Aksa Mosque and raises questions about Israel's plans for a Third Temple. To environmentalists be says it spoils the view.

Arafat is painting the Israeli decisinn in the worst possible light. "In war one makes decisions without telling the enemy. In peace one makes decisions together," said Faisal Husseini. If Israel has the right to gamble that Har Homa will serve its interests, the Palestinians have every interest in

Continued on Page 10

### **ANALYSIS**

# osing the Oslo spirit

By PINHAS INBARI

alestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat went to Washington with a big success in hand, All the opposition groups within the PLO and Hamas had previously held a \*Comprebensive National Dialngue" in Nablus, the first such meeting since the Oslo agreements. All opposition groups dropped their previous demands including the release of their prisoners from PA jails - in a move that looked like a total surrender to Arafat. It appeared as if they were admitting their mistake of not approving the Osln agree-

Nobody can argue with the fact that Arafat bas succeeded in establishing his undisputed leadership in the PA area, but it is questionable whether the dialogue in Nablus actually aimed at pushing the apposition groups ta accept the Osln agreement. In Nablus, not only was there no discussion on the Osln agreements, but the agenda was devoid of Osln's spirit and substance.

All the leaders of the participating groups, including the Damascus-based Democratic Front leader Nayef Hawatmeh and Nablus-based Popular Front

leader Abd a-Rahim Malluh and the entire Hamas delegation, declared that they firmly nbjected to the Osln agreements. What really bothered them was indicated in an article by Akram Haniyya, the editor of the Ramallab-based al-Ayyam daily. Under the title of: "Another gathering is waiting to be convened." Haniyya underlined the fact that all the npposition groups that went to Nablus had boycotted the electinns tn the Legislative Council which is the "the source

of legitimacy to the new Palestinian regime." He asserts that the gathering should have included the relevant forces in the PA areas that have shaped post-Osln agreements.

The Nablus gathering brought together the old guard in the PLO, supported by elements in Hamas. Their objective was to keep alive the nld agenda of the PLO and prevent the ynunger generation from savoring the main achievement of Oslo: the start of parliamentary life in the Palestinian ter-

"Real democracy shnuld start only after the establishment of the Palestinian state," some of them told Radin Palestine. In the mean -time, the source of authority should not be in the clected body, but rather in the nld PLO establishment, according to the old "qunta" system in which PLO factions distributed the seats in all Palestinian institutions, including the Palestinian National Council, among themselves, nnt according to voting but according to political convenience.

"The PNC shrnld also be elected," said the veteran Palestinian leader Haidar Abdel-Shafi, challenging the old PLO bosses, who attended the Nablus gathering.

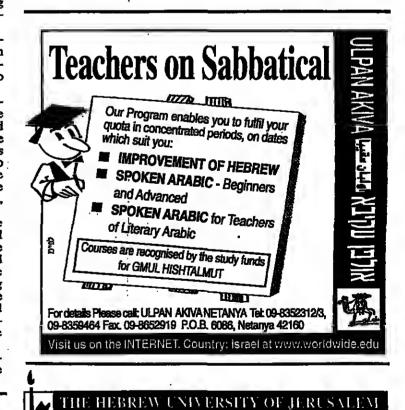
But Abdel-Shafi was an exception at the meeting. Most of the participants were leaders who had come from abroad, denying the younger generation of leaders inside the territories the chance to be part of the delegations. The absence of leaders from the "inside," such as Faisal Husseini, was noticeable.

Young intifada leaders like Popular Front senior activist Riad al-Malki did not participate in the discussions. Al-Malki confronted the "outside" leadership of the Front on the issue of participating in the elections tn the Legislative Council. In the end be accepted orders to boycntt the elections but not without publicizing that be supported the democratic action.

According to the Oslo agreements, the Palestinian Legislative Cnuncil should lead the permanent solution negntiations with

the old PLO should lead the com-

ing period of final-status negntiations. If this trend develops further, it means a breach nnt only of But in Nablus, it was agreed that the agreement, but also of its very



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Some Notes on Jewish-American-Poetic Identity

19:15 - Moshe Ron, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Debts": Grace Paley's Little Treatise on Ethics

**FEATURES** 

When France's Front National won the municipal election in Vitrolles last month, it marked the fourth time the extreme right-wing party had taken over a town. In Toulon - where the Front scored its first victory - the 4,000 Jewish residents are learning to live in an atmosphere of mistrust and uncertainty. Eldad Beck reports

night in Toulon, a patron is dis-Loussing the party in power at City Hall: Jean-Marie Le Pen's Front National, as it is called in

You'll see, the FN will soon win other municipalities," the 30ish Philippe says. "Then it will get into the National Assembly. We can give them a chance to govern.
After all, nohody has harned down synagogues or mosques in FN towns. Not yet, anyway."

This southern French port city has become an important symbol of what may happen nationwide, depending on whom you ask. For FN supporters - emboldened hy city council last month. Next year, it will contest national legislative elections, though it may only send seven deputies to the next assem-

Outward appearances in France's fourth largest city have not changed since the election in June 1995 of Mayor Jean-Marie Le Chevalier, once Le Pen's closest adviser. Xenophobic graffiti do not deface its romantic squares, squads of skinheads cannot be seen chasing African and Arah immigrants through its

quaint, tidy streets. The changes there, however, have nonetheless been insidious. A promineot example was Le

### The synagogue has become the council's favorite battlefield.

the ultra-nationalist party's recent victories in the region - Toulon marks a new beginning for the Front; it is an opportunity for the FN to win over doubters hy showing them that it is in the mainstream, that it can govern respon-

For the Front's opponents, including Toulon's 4,000-strong Jewish community, the city of 450,000 is the red line where they hope to stop the party's advance. Failure to do so could prompt many French Jews to emigrate.

Now, "they want to present themselves as being more legal than those who represent the law in this country," Jewisb community vice chairman Maurice Aziza says of the Front. "Once they get the vote on the national level, they will do whatever they wish."

Toulon is the front's greatest political asset to date, and is joined by three other strongholds: Orange, Marignane and Vitrolles, where the FN won control of the

Chevalier's decision to ban French-Jewish author Marek Halter from the city's annual book fair because he was born abroad. The ban drew outraged responses nationwide, and Halter was accompanied by four former cul-ture ministers in a demonstration

INDEED, MOST of the changes are hidden in people's hearts. "Ever since the FN victory, a terrible atmosphere of mistrust has reigned here," says Martine Namias, a Tunisian-horn Jew. That is the mark of daily life under a totalitarian regime, not

that of a Western democracy. "The day after the election, people started talking to one another in a different way," says Lyonel, 17, who declined to give his last name. "Nobody knew who'd voted for the FN. If somebody you know spoke to you in a strange way, you started wondering whether be bad. Very few peo-

ple would publicly admit that they had voted for the extreme right." But after the FN added another

municipality's scalp to its belt all four towns are in the unemployment-racked southeastern districts of Bouches-du-Rhône and Var - people who had secretly agreed with the FN's anti-foreigner stance came out publicly. Some freely air their bigotry in the presence of Jews and Arahs, the main targets of their hatred. Ethnic slurs and insults are becoming more common in public, Aziza says.

The Jewish community knows that, among Front activists, antisemitism runs deeper than the urge to hurl epithets; they cling to the fringes of political discourse, subscribing to every extremist stance pushed in the street, from neo-Nazism to Holocaust denial.

The city council has been more cautious than its counterpart in Marignane, which stopped subsidies on public-school lunches that did not include pork, an obvious attack on Moslems and Jews. The smaller city's libraries have also cleared the works of left-wing writers and thinkers from the shelves, replacing them with books by extreme rightists. However, a few weeks after Le

Chevalier's victory in Toulon, a small bookshop hawking wares from the ultra-nationalist publishing house, Les Éditions Nationales, opened next door to the opera in the heart of the city's cultural quarter. It hills itself as a "nonconformist" bookstore and sells propaganda tracts, FN publications and even stamps issued, during World War II by the collaborationist Vichy government.

ON THE eve of the June 1995 election, with an FN victory in the offing, the community's leaders broke with standard practice by calling on all Jewish voters to go



to the polls; failure to cast ballots, they argued, would only strengthen the Front.

Soon afterwards, the local Jewish leadership announced a boycott of the city council, a tactic adopted by Jewish communities, political movements, artists' groups and intellectuals in other FN-run localities. The community reasoned that rightists in City Hall would use any contacts with Jews to generate propaganda, "in order

to show that they treat the Jews Jenin's mayor thought it was a well, while we know exactly what their ideas are," explains Aziza. All contacts were immediately stopped, except for urgent cases, such as when the community needed a license to enlarge the cemetery.

An opponent of the boycott was Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau, whose city was twinned with Toulon; he changed his mind after the Halter affair, and cut ties.

good opportunity to twin his town with Toulon, but the PLO representative in France, Laila Shahid, persuaded him not to, a gesture appreciated by local Jews. City Hall is now applying finan-cial and psychological pressure to

force the community into ending its boycott.

It is pressing with pinpoint accuracy on the community's most important material asset: the

new Or Nahmani synagogue and cultural center.

Fifteen years ago. Jewish leaders reached an agreement with the city under which it would evacuate its ancient synagogue in exchange for municipal aid to construct a new one.

The FN-dominated council is ignoring the verbal agreement and has demanded that the community repay the city 550,000 francs (\$100,000) a year, which is well beyond the community's means. The council, in an official letter, even threatened to sell the synagogue if the community does not pay its debt.

"I'm sure that if we ask for the money [from donors], we will get a check the same day, hut it is a matter of principle," says Marcel Giant, of the local B'nai B'rith

THE SYNAGOGUE has become the council's favorite battlefield against local Jews. One of Le Chevalier's deputy mayors made a surprise safety inspection, for example, and threatened to close the synagogue for minor infractions. The police officer who had accompanied him later told Jewish leaders that none of the city's churches would have passed such an inspection.

And for the first time in years, when worshipers arrived for services last Yom Kippur, they found there was no police protection for the synagogue.

The community - which, like those in many French localities, was revived by an influx of North African Jews – is oow at a crossroad. Many are thinking of leaving. That's not only because of the FN, which is expected to strengthen its position in the future, but because of the deep economic crisis gripping the country. One of the main destinations is Israel. The treod is nationwide, with aliya rising over the past five years from 800 annually to 2,200, more than from any other Western country.

However, leaders of the Jewish community's official umhrella organization say there is still time to stop the FN's advance.

The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) recently called upon all democratic forces to mobilize against Le Pen and his party. It is not too late for France, they argue. But it is not clear whether it is too late for Toulon.

E MOSHE KOMM

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# LAST STRAW

Continued from Page 9

ensuring that it won't. Arafat is in the strongest position he has been in since arriving

April 3

April 15

in Gaza in May 1994. He learned him by surprise, and here there is factions bebind him. rise. The development of A statement by the PA-appoint-Har Homa is predictable.

Israel, bowever, cannot turn back from its decisioo without losing face, which gives Arafat

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Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose

in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias

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Reservations and further information:

because so much more has now been revealed

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed, 600,00 Jews died.

the opportunity to turn the heat in September that he can quickly up and down at will. The situatake control of events that take tion helps to unite all political

> ed mufti of Jerusalem, Akrame Sabri, in the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper this week that in the wake of Har Homa there would be "oo liberation of Jerusalem except by war," outflanks Hamas. In the wake of last week's Nablus national dialogue forum, all the opposition groups have pooled their threats of violence and placed them at Arafat's

UNLIKE SEPTEMBER'S tunnel decision, the decision to huild on Har Homa was taken after a very public revelation of the General Security Service's assessment that Palestinian reaction would oot be violent.

But the forecast was for the immediate reaction. It did not include the stage of the hulldozers arriving, which will arouse

The bulldozers will clearly expose the relations of power and weakness which separate the two sides, only a centimeter beneath the guise of partnership, and it will excite a Palestinian response to redress the balance.

"We are in a serious predicament," says Arafat's chief domestic critic, Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi.

"Israel is doing things unilater-ally on the basis of its military power, so we have to decide how to defend ourselves against this aggressioo."

He considers violence an option. He differs with Arafat only in arguing that the current reaction "is a hit of a preteose" because Palestinians should have taken a stand on earlier settlements.

The menace of violence that has been created by the government's decision is enough to help

the man-in-the-street more than the government declarations are compels him to do more, so much the better. If it erupts it must appear to be spontaneous so that he can take credit for ending

> Arafat has also been careful not to attack Netanyahu directly. He portrays him as "my partner," hut a victim of his anti-Oslo govern

"fanatics" as boldly as Arafat

Har Homa has set the tone to the run-up of the final-status talks, making any action the government takes appear to be one of ill will, such as an order to close four Palestinian offices in Jerusalem.

The orders then add fuel to the

Arafat has been careful not to attack Netanyahu directly. He portrays him as "my partner," but also as a victim of his anti-Osio government.

CNN, "I am sorry to say there are fanatic groups making pressure on him, but if he is facing pressure I am facing many, different pressures." The implication is that if Netanyahu must face his

ment. Arafat told Larry King on Har Homa fireball. This actually places the PA in a position to extract concessions in return for not responding in a way that embarrasses the government. The first, volunteered by the government without prompting, is

increased Arab housing in Jerusalem (but not at Har Homa). This was followed by reports that Israel was prepared to give up more than 2 percent of the West Bank in the first of three post-Hebron redeployments.

But appetites have grown. Sach Erekat, the PA's chief negotiator, says that according to the Oslo accords, in the first stage: "We are expecting 25 percent of areas C and B to be transferred directly to area A." The three redeployments

between today and August next year are unilateral Israeli decisions. But the word unilateral now has an unhealthy ring. Hebron brought the US into the center of the talks.

Now President Clinton agrees with Arafat that Har Homa is an act of had faith because it "builds mistrust." The next step for the

Palestinians is to ask Clinton to

use his influence to redress the



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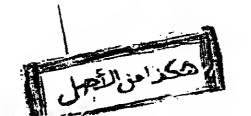
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By AMOTZ ASA-EL

This week, while witnessing the birth of my second child, I noticed a strange resemblance between myself and Moshe Arens.

No, unlike the former minister of defense and foreign affairs I am neither an aeronautical engineer oor a retired party back. But, having stared dumbfounded at my newborn offspring, it occurred to me that he would make a great prime minister; he is so pure, I noticed, so innocent, so immaculate, so beautiful. In fact he looks just like me. What else can my tormented people ask for in a leader during the testing times which will surely await us by the time he matures?

Roughly the same thing happened to Moshe Arens when he launched Binyamin Netanyahu's meteoric political career.

"Ah," Israel's polite. softspoken and bespectacled ambassador to Washington said back then - in the early 1980s - "get a load of this MIT education, that fluent English. the Thatcherite faith, his Greater Israel commitment and Revisionist lineage - ain't that me, and isn't that just the kind of leader Israel so sorely needs!"

The difference, of course is that, unlike me, Arens actually realized those hallucinatory thoughts which every parent is prone to occasional-

A VIEW FROM NOV



the campaign of Eretz Yisrael Arabs to gain legiti-"Palestinian people" has several

One is that it began less as a striv-Palestinian-Arab identity, and more, much more, as a pan-Arab struggle to prevent the Jews from returning to our ancestral bomeland as sovereigns in any part of Eretz Yisrael. Indeed, one cannot repeat too

often that from early on until as recently as 20 years ago distinguished Arab spokesmen, including some now ideotified as "[the] Palestinians," vigorously rejected that label as a Zionist device to delegitimize their pan-Arab or pan-Syrian aspirations.

Since it was fundamentally an anti-Jewish rather than a pro-Arab campaign, a campaign to destroy rather than build, it quickly acquired classical antisemitic characteristics and turned into bloody warfare.

Hence, in the March-April/Purim-Pessah 1920 period, Arabs started murdering Jews en masse. First they attacked Jewish settlements in Galilee, including Tel Hai where Yosef Trumpeldor and two American Jewish volunteers were among the eight defenders slain.

Then, helped and encouraged by

# SHABBAT SHALOM



\*And he made the laver of brass, and its pedestal of brass, out of the mirrors of the women assembling. who assembled at the Tent of (Ex. 38:8)

s feminism a form of expression that opens a Pandora's box of threats to the religious establishment, or a genuine response to the needs of the times? Fascinatingly enough, there is an oftquoted midrashic commentary that women played a central role in the construction of the original Sanctuary. Moreover, a careful study of the early rabbinic sources reveals fascinating insights concerning attitudes towards sex, children and

charitable giving. What first strikes us about the verse from Vayakhel quoted above is that, of the many items used for the Tabernacle, only the layer merits having its origins presented. Why? Rashi comments that "the daughters of Israel had mirrors which they

# The man who invented Netanyahu

First he appointed Netanyahu his deputy at the Washington embassy, then - as defense minister - he lobbied for Netanyahu's appointment as ambassador to the UN. Finally, this mentor-disciple, patron-protege relationship came to its full fruition when Arens openly supported Netanyahu's leadership bid, following the Likud's electoral fiasco in

Indeed - irony of ironies - had Menachem Begin not first dispatched Moshe Arens to the Washington embassy, and then abruptly recalled him in order to replace his disgraced defense minister Ariel Sharon, the great current rivalry between Netanyahu and Begin's son may never have evolved in the first place; shorn of his political creator's exposure, backing and encouragement, Netanyahu could have remained a little-known businessman whose sole claim to fame was being Entebbe hero Yoni's brother.

None of this would have been relevant now had it not been for Arens's glaring sidelining this week at the Likud's typically stormy, uncivil and grotesque purty caucus meeting, and his subsequent attack on "those who organized that

First, there is the moral aspect, for those of us who still have expectations from that side of Netanyahu's cally sober and tactically inventive

senior British officials, Arabs from

the Jerusalem and Hebron areas

rampaged in Jerusalem, killing six

Jews, wounding 200 (about half of

them children and elderly), and rap-

(See Middle East Diary: 1917-

1956 [London, Cresset] by Col. Richard Meinertzhagen, who was

the local British administration's

Bloodshed or the threat of it has

characterized

"Palestinians" campaign. The 1920

violence was followed by a long

including the 1921, 1929 and 1936-

1939 mass pogroms; the 1948

attempt to throttle newborn Israel,

The "Palestinians" are oot inhibit-

ed even by their signature on the

various Oslo accords, which include

an undertaking "to strengthen

understanding and tolerance, to pre-

vent incitement and hostile propa-

ANOTHER TRAGIC aspect of the

campaign is the way it succeeded in

applying to the Arab-Jewish conflict

the Nazi-Bolshevik method of

reconstructing facts and words and

agitators like the PLO veterans, one

is inclined to shrug, were it not that

they have succeeded in language-

cleansing so many people wbo

should - and do - know better, but

have their own reasons for accept-

One is shocked, however, when

similar nonsense is published under

the imprimatur of our peace partner

ing Arafatian semantics.

When this is done by common.

and all the bloodshed since.

ganda against each other..."

their meanings.

chief political officer at that time.)

ing two Jewish girls.

personality. Shoving Arens to the alternative to Israel's cumbersome end of the speakers' list in that trampling of its northern neighbor. debate, along with a host of prominent Likud veterans ranging from Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Uzi Landau to former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, with the thinly veiled intention of muzzling their criticism of Netanyahu's policies, was the rough equivalent of Yossi Beilin heckling a Shimon Peres

beard. Yet more importantly, Arens's mistreatment by his own political creation sadly sheds light - yet again - on that gifted engineer's poor political judgment.

peace oration, or Aryth Deri pulling

in public Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's

First, the man who invented Netanyahu voted against the Camp David Accords, arguing that Israel could not afford to relinquish the Sinai's oil deposits. However, as it turned out, petroleum's economic significance has since then declined dramatically. Major oil producers - from Nigeria to Venezuela - are in the doldrums, while Israel is doing just fine without those wells; Arens's vision in this regard has proved simplistic, anachronistic and short-sighted.

Then, as the man who inherited Sharon's Lebanese concoction, Arens failed to suggest a strategi-

and putative friend King Hussein's

"International Press Office (IPO) of

the Royal Hashemite Court." I refer

particularly to the IPO's Jordan

Diary 1997, received here last

Here are a few examples of the

Well, the land called "[The

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" is

only 50 years old, so it is not so

"venerable" in terms of political

age. In other respects, I suppose any patriotic story could begin by

declaring, "Cockaigne is a venera-

· "There is little archaeological

evidence to fully support the

Biblical account of the Israelites'

True. First, the "Israelites" never

"occupied" a land called Palestine.

except briefly during the late

Roman period and during the

British Mandate. What we did occu-

py was a land called "Canaan."

which we ultimately called "Eretz

Second, considering all the inva-

sions, burnings, and razings, fol-

lowed by building on level after

level of ruins, that Eretz Yisrael has

undergone, it is amazing that arche-

ologists have found any ancient

Jewish artifacts at all. Perhaps if the

Arabs overcame their fear of and/or

contempt for the facts about our

land's Jewish history, they would

allow and even participate in careful

archeological exploration of the

Temple Mount/Haram a-Sharif area.

As it is, they have been busy

destroying or burying any Jewish

occupation of Palestine...

Yisrael/Land of Israel.

Diary's rape of language, truth and

· "Jordan is a venerable land."

week.

meaning

ble land.

Instead, he opposed then prime minister Shimon Peres's withdrawal plan, and insisted that Israeli troops remain entrenched in central

Lebanon. Finally, and most tellingly, Arens spearheaded a powerful lobby within the Israeli military-industrial complex which sought to mass-produce here the unaffordable Lavi fighter plane.

When, in 1987, the government voted to scrap that project, a disillusioned Arens resigned his cabinet seat, warning that Israel's qualita-tive edge had been severely hampered, and that the project's numerous engineers and technicians would first accelerate local unemployment, and ultimately flee

In reality, shortly after the Lavi's cancellation the intifada broke out thus sharply reducing the relevance of fighter planes in a rapidly transforming Arab-Israeli conflict - and the Soviet Union fell apart, dramatically altering the character of the Middle East's arms race.

Meanwhile, those skilled workers who a decade ago Arens thought would not have anything to do if not for his statist benevolence, have since then become the backbone of a flourishing, lucrative, export-oriented and chronically understaffed

· "...the Ka'aba, built by Abraham

Where is the archeological evi-

"Immediately after the procla-

mation of the state of Israel,

Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Iraq sent

troops to join with Jordanian forces

in order to defend their brethren, the

Like the story of the boy who,

when his mother asked him why he

was weeping so bitterly, sobbed:

who rejected the UN partition pro-

posal, entered Israel to "defend their

brethren" against the Jews' counter-

· "The Hashemite forces... suc-

cessfully defended the holy places

from the Israelis\_ made every effort

to prevent damage to the boly

and Christian holy places was need-

ed, because the Jews were careful to

Jordanians during and after the 1948

war went out of their way to demol-

ish or otherwise vandalize and dese-

crate every Jewish holy place within

launches a surprise attack on Jordan,

and Syrian moves to strangle us,

which led to that "surprise attack,"

and no mention of prime minister

Levi Eshkol's urgent pleas to King

Naturally, no mention of Egyptian

Syria, and Egypt."

As for Jewish holy places - the

avoid wanton firing at them.

In fact, no defense of the Moslem

places...

The forces of those five countries,

indigenous inhabitants of

as the House of God ... '

dence for this invention?

Fortunately, Arens's ill advice on Camp David, Lebanon and the Lavi was not heeded. Unfortunately, on Netanyahu he struck it big.

The man whose pre-incumbency

Greater Israel bravados is now withering into a sweeping retreat from the West Bank; the man who embraced Arens's main source of nausea, David Levy; the man whose declared quest for "excel-lence" in public office led to people such as Yehoshua Matza and Rom Bar-On; the man whose frivolous Thatcherite promises have given way to his obstruction of Bezeq's purchase by Cable and Wireless and just this week - an opposition MK's heroic attempt to dent the Electric Corporation's monopoly, that man was politically created by no other than Moshe Arens, longtime champion of an economically free, politically clean and territorially grand Israel.

At the height of communism, Muscovites used to joke that after being allowed to travel through a few Soviet towns, and offered to address the proletariat on TV, a visibly listless Karl Marx stared at the cameras and said: "Workers of the world, forgive me."

This week Arens has had a chance to personally feel just bow far his Pinocchio has gone. It's time he begged our forgiveness.

# **Dry Bones**



BUT IF YOU TURNED DOWN RABIN'S OFFER WHY WOULD YOU TAKE THE SAME OFFER FROM ? BIBI ?!





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By BEVERLEE BLACK

trange as it may seem, not Severybody in Israel is inti-mately concerned with the Bar-On inquiry or building Jewish homes at Har Homa.

For many, trying to make their monthly income last more than two weeks is an everyday reality. For others, the holes in their children's shoes are of great concern, especially now that the rainy weather is essing the country.

Many of our senior citizens and children can't sleep at night because nagging toothaches are keeping ke. A lot of old people ing alone haven't money to buy kerosene to heat their homes.

For me, this is my daily fare, not Bar-On and Har Homa. Lawyers won't solve my problems. Only you, our devoted and generous readers, will provide the funds to solve a few of the problems of our less fortimate neighbors.

So rush, rush, rush, send, send, send and help me by giving till it

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Rand Codner, Monterey Park, CA.

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# A role for women

looked into when they were beautifying themselves, and these they brought ... as a gift for the Sanctuary. Moses found them objectionable because they were used for the evil impulse. The Holy One, blessed be He, said to him: 'Take them, for they are more beloved to Me than anything else. With these, the women established armies of Jews in

sure that there would be a next gen-

derived from Rashi's explanation. require the rejection of the physical, but the sanctification of it. Moses, in his objection to the mirrors, voiced a puritanical rejection of anything that smacks of physicality. But the Torah - at least through the eyes of Rashi and the Michash - wants us to know that beautifying the body, and sexual

sions of faith. Second, every time the priest washed his hands and feet to begin a

day of divine service, the laver would allow him to see his own face. In doing so, he inevitably realized the significant difference between inner and outer reality. What you see developing a negative view of

Hence, the mirror brings home a clear message. Just as the laver constantly reminds him that a reflection is not the total picture, so too people bringing sacrifices should not be defined only by their sin. We are more complex than what meets the eye, and even though we may be guilty of a particular sin, that sin does not necessarily represent our essence. The woman who attempts to look her best in front of a mirror is viewed in a deeper way by the spouse she hopes to please - and

Indeed, the act of primping must not be judged without taking motivarion into account. For whom does she want to look well and why? As

the prophet Isaiah writes, the King Messiah will express his great insight by "not judging people by the seeing of the eye" (11:3), merely by external appearance. And, hopefully, neither will the priest.

As a fascinating additional detail, the 15th-century S'forno points out Sinai desext.

men. After the text in our portion describes two kinds of donations, an obligatory one and a voluntary one, the following verse seems somewhat ambiguous: "And they came, the women over the men..." (Ex. 35:21).

The commentators explain that women gave first. And the Sages pick up on the fact that only here, regarding the Sanctuary, does the Bible specifically mention that the women gave. In other words, the women also knew when not to give - which is why they refused to give for the collection that was used to make the Golden Calf. Their reward for this lack of involvement in idolatry is that women were given the special festival of Rosh Hodesh -- the first day of every new month wherein only they, and not their husbands, are commanded to be freed from physical work.

Until recently, the fund-raising activities of the major Jewish organizations in North America and Europe targeted the male head of the household. Things are hopefully

Due to a technical error, last week's portion (Ki Tissa-Exodus 30:11-30:35) was not published. It will appear on Sunday.

The 'Palestine' tragedy Hussein not to be bamboozled by Abdul Nasser into joining the Egyptian-Syrian Axis. On August 21, 1969, the "minbar [preacher's platform] in al-Aksa mosque... suffers great damage

when... set on fire by Dennis Rohan, an Australian Jew." Rohan is a Christian, who was judged insane.

· During World War I, "Sharif Hussein bin Ali, Emir of Mecca [and King Hussein's great-grandfather], launched the Great Arab Revolt." David Forman's richly document-Peace to End All Pe

York, Avon) tells us: "...The Arab revolt for which Hussein hoped never took place... No Arabic units of the Ottoman army..., no political or military figures of the Ottoman Empire defected to him and the Allies... Hussein's call to revolt fell on deaf ears throughout the Arab world... But two months before the war ended] Reginald Wingate, British proconsul in Egypt wrote that \_ it was important to make Hussein look as though he had not been a failure in order to keep Britain from looking bad."

"Great Arab Revolt" - a fairy tale International Press Office.

international dialing codes and postal rates, and a list of foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan. Israel is oot there, though the list of Jordanian missions abroad does include their embassy in Tel Aviv. The Arabian Nights is more enter-

by Reginald Wingate, "Lawrence of Arabia," Lowell Thomas, Peter O'Toole, and Amman's Royal . The Diary contains a directory of

• The Six Day War broke out when, on June 5, 1967, "Israel

By SHLOMO RESIGN

Egypt" (Rashi, Ex. 38:8). God explains that when the backbreaking labor under the Egyptian taskmasters broke the spirit of the men, the women would use the mirrors to rekindle their husbands' broken spirits and entice them into intimate relationships. They thus made

Three basic concepts can be First of all, spiritual purity does not relations, can be profound expres-

is not necessarily what you get! There are at least three your who you are, who you think you are, and who others think you are. And the converse is also true: Given that a priest often officiates at sin offerings and guilt offerings, and as such is exposed to the darker side of human foibles and sins, he is in danger of

Third, and perhaps most significant, the mirrors reminded the priest

of the importance of faith despite bleak conditions round about. After all, logic would dictate that Jewish women in ancient Egypt would have done everything possible to prevent bringing a next generation of Jews into such an antisemitic world. Bearing a child in Auschwitz - and attempting to rear him/her as a Jew is the most profound expression of

that the Torah specifies that women assembled at the Tent of Meeting in order to inform us that droves of women gathered to study the words of the living God! In other words, one could make a reasonable case that the first women's beit midrash (study hall) was established in the

Moreover, the Torah makes it clear that in addition to their generosity vis-a-vis the mirrors, the women are on a higher level of giving to Torahordained enterprises than are the

### THE WEEK THAT WAS

# All the king's men

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

uring the election campaign, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu was sold to the world as a media wizard. This week the magic failed.

Sunday's Likud central committee meeting was painstakingly planned and theatrically produced to be a tremendous demonstration of support for the prime minister, a rallying of the faithful.

It backfired badly. Instead of delivering steely solidarity and unanimous euphoria, ministers and party leaders emerged with scathing criticism of the oneman show.

The senior ministers and promi-nent MKs were less than thrilled to find they had been invited as extras and spear-carriers to line up behind the man who would hog the footlights and the airwaves. Their long and mournful faces on the stage said

The producers took no chances. All those with a bellyful of gripes who were waiting to let off steam would not get a chance to speak. They would be allowed, of course, but only after the main speaker, Netanyahu. By the time he finished, people were starting to go home.

Just to ensure that any anti-Bibi whispers were drowned out, groups supplied by Rent-a-Heckle were supplied to the hall for the occasion to hail "Bibi, King of Israel" and harass any dissidents. There were more sinister manifestations when the hecklers venomously attacked

the police and the State Prosecutor's Office and chanted: "Death to the

Binyamin Begin, the one-time Likud Party prince and conscience, was confronted by fist-shaking goons screaming "traitor." Sharon called them "mobilized gangs of hoodlums" and wanted to know who organized them. Frail Finance Minister Dan Meridor "got the chills." The gentlemanly Moshe Arens was shocked and said he had never experienced such a spectacle -"a production, a show," rather than a central committee meeting. MK Uzi Landau said the gathering was "Bolshevik" and demanded to be informed how the hoodlums infii-

trated the reserved front-row seats,

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir went home in disgust when be learned he would not be allowed to speak. Microphones stayed beyond the reach of the fingers of Arens, Landau and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who became virtual-reality speakers - scheduled but not called. When MK David Re'em tried to utter a few comradely words in support of Begin, the sound system mysteriously died and

he could not be heard. The hoodlums, as Ma'ariv later revealed arrived not on menacing Harley-Davidsons but in a number of luxurious Volvos and Mercedes, which were ushered discreetly into the closed VIP car park. Although not central committee members, they were let slip into the closed-off area at the front of the hall reserved

for dignitaries and leading party members. There they busied themselves hailing Netanyahu and booing his opponents.

Veteran party members who tried to silence them into some decorum retreated hastily before a hail of waving fists, abuse and threats.

More media fabrications? Ministers, parliamentarians, committee members and millions of viewers at home saw the sights and heard the voices. Only Netanyahu appeared to hear nothing, see nothing, and know nothing. He insisted anyone who wanted could have spoken as much as they liked and he rejected the very idea that anything "undemocratic" could have happened at such an august gathering.

### TRICKY BIBL

As though all that wasn't enough, Newsweek magazine came out with a banner headline at the top of its international section saying: "Just Call Him Tricky Bibi." For Newsweek, Netanyahu had become Israel's Tricky Dicky Nixon, and the Bar-On blunder his Watergate.

In fact that little can of worms merely simmered on a back burner this week, losing some of its dramat-ic momentum. Nonetheless, the ripples bringing ministers and MKs inside the circle of police question-

ing continued to widen. Would the prime minister be questioned again? Would charges be pressed? Would Netanyahu claw his way out of the tangled web of deceit

Netanyahu: A failed magician? which has been exposed since

Channel 1 lifted the stone on the

affair? The questions still hovered in Meanwhile, it continued to sprout offshoots. One was a prompt investigation of the "leaked" protocol from the cabinet meeting at which the Roni Bar-On appointment as anorney general was approved. The protocol was published by Yoav Yitzhak in Globes. Ministers fumed and fulminated. They blamed the police (who else?). Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein ordered an inquiry. Some of the huffers and puffers could have hitten their tongues off next day when they learned the "leak" probably came

office. Not only that, but the probe seemed ludicrous in any case. This is a country where ministers, their assistants and spokespeople have

from the prime minister's own

systematically and for decades been leaking" entire pages of protocols from cabinet meetings when it served their interests.

The Journalists' Association pointedly commended Yitzhak for his scoop and said he deserves an award for pursuing the public interest. The witch-hunt into the "leak" - aimed at dissuading future sources from talking to journalists - most decidedly is not in the public's interest.

### MONEY NO OBJECT

Let us recall how the government was obliged to make painful but essential budget cuts. Privileges for pensioners were canceled. Health services for hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren were slashed, public transport and city rates were

This week the AMCHA association, which helps and supports Holocaust survivors and their families suffering from post-traumatic symptoms, learned that its budget is to be axed and its clubs will have to

A day later it was the turn of Eran - a mental-stress telephone help line, whose 650 volunteers around the country aid 70,000 people a year,

including 10,000 teenagers. However, in such straightened circumstances, it is a comfort to recall that for some things there is plenty of money. NIS 106 million will be transferred from the slum rehabilitation project and the provision of mortgages for needy couples budget, for - you guessed it - construction in the settlements. So decided the prime minister, finance minister and deputy housing minister this week.

The Religious Affairs Ministry allocation to National Religious Party's study institutions, most of which are in the West Bank, was multiplied by 14. "The haredim got much more. We were modest. This is small change," said Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal

There's also no lack of small change for needy MKs. After giving themselves a whopping 34 percent wage rise in January, they are about to get an additional 6.9 percent this

Repeated appeals by Meretz MK Ran Cohen to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, head of the ministers' legislation committee, to halt the pay rise by amending the budget law before it comes into effect at the beginning of March, have fallen on

deaf ears. And last but never least there is the times-five rise in the prime minister's travel budget, for which his office has applied to the Knesset Finance Committee, Ha'aretz said last week.

Every little helps when one needs to take the girlfriend of one's wife on a free ride to the United States, in the guise of \_ a narmy.

### GRAPEVINE

# Picking up tips from the palace

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

onored by the Israel Hotel Association in appreciation of his mammoth effort over the past 17 years to place Eilat on the international tourist map, British entrepreneur David Lewis, speaking at a gala dinner at Jerusalem's Renaissance Hotel attended by President Ezer Weizman, recalled that exactly a week earlier he had seen Weizman dining at a place reputed to be the best hotel in London."

He was hoping that the president would give him and his IHA colleagues some tips. In the realm of kashrut for instance, "did the queen say she had any problems with a mashgiah?" Lewis queried amid much laughter. He also commented on the fact that Weizman had been transported to Buckingham Palace in a horsedrawn golden carriage and asked "is there an idea here that Israel can adopt?"

Continuing his tongue-in-cheek address, Lewis remarked that when he had seen the chairs in the banquet hall at Buckingham Palace standing two meters from the table, he initially couldn't understand why. But then be realized that the British couldn't be relied on any more to stand up for the queen.

AFTER ALMOST four months in Cairo, Zvi Mazel, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, was finally able to present his credentials to President Hosni Mubarak, just a week prior to Mubarak's meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Apparently it's customary in the land of the Nile to wait until there are at least 16 new ambassadors before holding a credentials presentation

in Mazel's case, the timing of the Hebron withdrawal may have also contributed to the delay. As one of his friends remarked this week: "It's just as well that he got in before the Har Homa decision came up, or he might have been waiting forever."
Last Friday, Mazel and his wife Michelle drove home to Jerusalem for briefings. Mazel also took the opportunity to visit Mosbe Sasson, one of his predecessors in office, who is recuperating from surgery.

NOTWITHSTANDING the nurbulence of his job, the prime minister has a remarkable ability to be able to clean his slate when he wants to take time out for private week he and his wife Sara celebrated their wedding anniversary with a tete-a-tete dinner at Mishkenot Sha'ananim followed by a movie. As usual, they missed the final scene and had to leave the cinema before the lights went on.

ALSO CELEBRATING a wedding anniversary is former Jerusalem Post advertising manager Avraham Levin and his wife Ahuva, who will mark their 50th year of wedded bliss next Tuesday.

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Peter Ropers and his wife Sandy have been feted left, right and center as their three-year stay in Israel draws to a close. This week the couple hosted their own farewell party at their official residence. Their belongings have already been sent to Australia, but the couple have to stay here till the end of March to oversee the official visit of Australian Trade Minister Tim Fisher, and to attend a

meeting of regional heads of mission

AT THE Hyant Jerusalem reception hosted by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations prior to the departure of its leadership mission to Uzbekistan, Ronald Lauder, recently elected president of the lewish National Fund of America, was being monopolized by one Israeli dignitary after another. Whether this was because of his considerable investments in Israel or because there is a good chance that he may be the next head of the conference is a matter of conjecture. Lauder was noncommittal with regard to the latter. "I'm here because I'm the president of the Jewish National Fund," he insisted with an unmistakable twinkle in his

IT TOOK her a while to snare him, but supermodel Cindy Crawford



Demi Moore

finally got millionaire Randy Gerber to pop the question. Gerber proposed in midair while the couple were winging their way from New York to Los Angeles.

THE PARTY may be over for Demi Moore and Bruce Willis. A German RTL television crew filming in L.A's Sunset Boulevard, caught sight of Moore, 35, and Leonardo DiCaprio, 21, who stars in Romeo and Juliet, in romantic mood. He gave her a bottle of perfume, after which they strolled through an art gallery, continued on to a restaurant and then drove to the Malibu Beach home which Moore shares with Willis and their children who hap-

pened to have been to New York. All their movements were documented by the TV crew, whose inva-2200 01 responsibility than Moore's apparent infidelity for the breakup of the mar-

After all, Willis who usually plays a macho on screen doesn't want to be a cuckold in real life. Nonetheless, if Moore signs an affidavit attesting that she did not make love with DiCaprio, even though he stayed all night, Willis is prepared to believe her.

HE MAY not be able to play Superman any more, but that doesn't mean Christopher Reeve's acting career is indefinitely on hold. Paralyzed from the neck down since his accident in 1995, Reeves, 44, still has star quality and has been offered the part of the wheelchair-bound photographer in the remake of the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock thriller Rear Window: Reeve, who has faith in his ability to recover, said in a January interview with People magazine that it's not a question of if he walks again, but when.







SOONER OR LATER WE



5 Quantities of pain-killing

7 Milky juice remaining an

8 Restlessness of adult

wrens, flying about (10)

14 Lingering impression of cooked tater feast? (10)

16 Smoked fish left in straw

20 Crusoe's refined sugar (7)

21 Miner, diffident follower of

immaculate leader? (7)

23 Acute feeling of remorse felt in Penang Strait (5) 25 Taking off with a high-pitched sound (5)

26 Below ancient city, a long

SOLUTIONS

9 Principal flier (8)

arrangement (9)

unknown quantity (5)

drugs (7)

hats (8)



### **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

example (8)

24 Get rid of Selkirk, for

27 Saul go far away to find

28 Cold season's start not

29 Common grub found in wheat-stalks (4)

30 Half-sovereign reasonable

for such work on rocks? (10)

this mountain? (5,4)

apparent in Bury (5)

# **ACROSS**

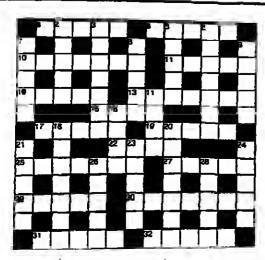
- 1 No taste for greens? That is disturbing (3-7) 6 Crack key to code (4)
- 10 Pot plant? (5) 11 Silent pictures being shown here in Scotland (9) 12 Opening here, now that
- branch has gone (8) 13 Peter out to capture side in the Southern States (5) 15 Easily broken up (accomplished after half a
- 17 Old timer has main heatsource in front of face (7) 19 England's openers too
- crude to occupy our attention (7) 21 Tickets in quarters (7) 22 Food & drink to someone
- DOWN 1 Wild party held in Bangor gymnasium... (4)
- relative in binge (9)
- riding school (5)
- 2 ... exhibiting Charley's
- 3 Thrown off balance in
- 4 Potential potential wooer, according to Rowley? (7)

# red river (4)



**Testerday's Quick Solution** ACROSS: 1 Venice, 4 Whaler, 7 Sleepless, 9 Tome, 16 Etna, 11 Athless: 1 Venips, 4 Whaler, 7 Steepiess, 9 Tome, 10 Stun, 11 Level, 13 Regain, 14 Terror, 15 Fillip, 17 Affray, 13 Dairy, 20 Sond, 22 Coms, 23 Gymnasium, 24 Speech, 20 Nearly.

DOWN: 1 Victor, 2 Idle, 3 Eleven, 4 Wallet, 5 Apse, 8 Repair, 7 Smuggling, 8 Storeroom, 11 Livid, 13 Leafy, 15 Fables, 16 Paunch, 17 Arisen, 18 Yearly, 21 Dyin, 22 Cuba.



### **QUICK CROSSWORD**

ACROSS 1 eg Acute (5) 4 Sea duck (5) 10 Weariness (7) 11 Fissure, cloven (5) 12 Nursery verse? (5)

13 Vivid red (7) 15 Make airtight (4) 17 Abyss (5) 19 Grasslike plant (5) 22 Golf dub (4) 25 Range of colours

29 Constellation (5) 30 Expressionless of face (7) 31 Concur (5) 32 Alternative (5)

2 Neat, dapper (5) 3 Very drunk (7) 5 Lay oneself open to (5) 6 Crepuscule (7)
7 Blazing (5)
8 Holiest city of Islam (5)
9 Precipitous (5)

14 As well (4)
16 Send forth (4)
16 Single portion of food (7) 1000 (7) 20 Bewitch (7) 21 Animal track (5) 23 Prepared (5) 24 Make up for (5) 26 Strained (5) 28 Abundant (5)



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# TWO DAYS ON THE

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, Mitzpe Shalom (near Kfar Haruv), the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzrin, the Druse village of Ein Kinya, Emek Habacha, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the wolves of the Golan.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, April 30/ May 1, 1997.

The price: NIS 595. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by

prior arrangement. Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbane, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074 Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Michal, Vered, or Varda.

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# BITS & BYTES

# By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

# Celicom selects Nortel's technology

Cellcom recently announced that it will use Northern Telecom's Wireless Intelligent Network Services portfolio in its next generation of cellular telephones. Nortel's WIN Services portfolio encompasses a variety of services, including "findme," fax messaging, call screening, voice messaging and voice mail callback.

# Comfy gets NIS 850,000 Australian order

Comfy Interactive Movies of Givatayim has received an NIS 850,000 order for keyboards and software. The two companies also signed a distribution agreement whereby Morse will distribute the Comfy toddler and infant's keyboard, plus related software products, in Australia. Morse is a computer software and hardware distributor to the Australian market, and an Internet service provider. Comfy makes children's products.

# Finjan sets fire-wall standard

Six of the world's leading companies engaged in the development of fire-wall protection systems have announced their adoption of technology developed by Finjan as standard in the software packages they produce. The companies are Checkpoint of Israel, which has a 40 percent share in the fire-wall market, Raptor, Trusted, Digital, Milkway and Network-1. The Internet standards authorities in the USA has approved Finjan's protection system for Java applications, making the Netanya-hased company's technology the leading protection standard.

# Golden Screens completes \$1.5m. placement

The Golden Screens Group, a Tel Aviv-based interactive multimedia systems developer, recently announced the completion of a \$1.5m. private placement. The company develops the software and applications for interactive kiosk terminals, which allow people to access information through electronic databases. The company is currently working on a multi-million project to equip the City of New York with its electronic databases.

# Fixing your Microsoft Internet software

A program to correct a serious flaw in the Microsoft Interact Explorer - an Internet browser - can be downloaded from the Microsoft-Israel site. The corrective program for the Hehrew version of the Explorer can be downloaded from http://www.microsoft.com/israel and also will be available via the major Internet suppliers. The flaw allowed illegal access to computers from sites that they had reached via the Internet.

# QXI, Mars establish Japan high-tech project

Mars Engineering Ltd., one of Japan's top three computergames companies, and QXI, the company's local representative, have announced plans to establish an incubator in Japan designed to develop Israeli technologies. Mars' president, Hirokazu Matsunami, is expected to visit Israel at the end of the month to sign an agreement with QXI and to review potential ideas for the project.

### Teledata receives \$5m. order from Brazil

.. Teledata Communications Ltd. (Nasdaq: TLDCF) recently ... reported that it received a \$5m. order for its DCS-20E telecommunications multiplexer system from a Brazilian telecommunications operator. The Herzliya-based company has a subsidiary in Brazil, which Teledata considers to be a potential growth market. Teledata designs wireline and wireless customer access network equipment for telephone operating companies. The

### VocalTec, Motorola cooperate on Net phone

VocalTec (Nasdaq: VOCLF) and Motorola International have drawn up a cooperation agreement in the area of voice technology. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding under which the Internet software products division of Motorola formed a systems integration unit that will deliver VocalTec's voice-over-Internet technology for mainstream com-

# Mr. David Zwebner, President CommStock Trading Ltd. 34 Ben Yehudah Street

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# Illegal cartel heads face dismissal

Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer is considering calling for the resignation of the six insurance company heads convicted of price-fixing and other illegal activities in restraint of trade, a Treasury spokesperson said yesterday.

As part of a plea bargain arrangement, Jerusalem District Court Judge Yohanan Adicl on Wednesday convicted six insurance companies, their managers and the Association of Insurance Companies of creating an illegal cartel in 1991 and 1992. The verdict will be given next Friday.

At this stage, it is unclear whether the managers will be able to continue in their positions. Shorer will receive legal recommendations based on the Insurance Business Law and wait for Adiel's final verdict before deciding whether to take actions, the Treasury spokesperson said.

Legal advisors to the insurance companies, like Prof. Yosef Gross and attorney Eli Zohar, said the managers' confessions and their suspended prison terms are not dishonorable or a violation of the insurance law. Furthermore, the Attorney-General's Office has said in the past that the supervisor does



Supervisor of Insurance Shorer may call for insurance heads' suspensions.

not have the authority to suspend the man-Assuming Shorer decides it is in the public's interest to fire the managers, he must receive the Knesset's backing and approach the boards of directors of the companies concerned with the demand that they dismiss the

Attorney John Barnea, legal advisor to the Association of Insurance Companies, said the supervisor has the authority to threaten to cancel insurance firms' licenses in order to protect the public, but in most cases does not have the authority to fire the managers. Only in very special circumstances, he said. does the supervisor have the authority to suspend managers for a maximum period of three months.

Shorer could not be reached for comment. The managers and companies were convicted of conspiring to fix premiums and other price components, such as special discounts and agent's fees. They also acted as a cartel in eliminating coverage of certain insurance items, raising insurance co-payments and dividing up the market between them. The companies committed these illegal acts in three sectors: homeowners' insurance; corporate insurance; and insurance for mechanical equipment.

The six companies convicted are Migdal, Clal Insurance, Hamagen, Sahar, Zion and

Menorah. The convicted managers include Uzi Levy, managing director of Migdal; Rimon Ben-Shaul, managing director of Clal; managing director of Zion, Rami Taiber, former general manager of Hamagen, Meir Shani; former managing director of Sahar, Menahem Harpaz, and deputy managing director of Menorah, Ari Kelman. Other senior officials that managed the property insurance divisions also were

The Phoenix and Ayalon insurance firms decided not to join the plea bargain. Charge sheets will be filed against these firms in the near future.

At the court hearing, the accused managers and companies confessed to clauses included in the indictment and agreed to maximum fines of NIS 6 million for each large firm and NIS 3m. for each small firm. The managers will be charged with fines ranging from NIS 150,000 to NIS 300,000 and get a suspended

prison sentence of up to two years. The State Attorney, represented by advocate Shimon Dolan, said the defendants' actions prevented free competition in the insurance field. He said the actions were very serious since they were carried out by senior



### Buddy, can you spare a pfennig?

Germans wait outside a Berlin employment office yesterday after the government announced unemployment rose to 4.3 million in February. Though the increase was smaller than expected, German unemployment is at its highest level since the 1930s. The joblessness hampers Germany's attempts to cut its budget deficit and also reduces its ability to pressure other European countries over the economic changes needed before the institution of a single European currency.

# Jordan agrees to keep Eilat airport open

Domestic flights would continue to land at the Eilat Airport, and not at the proposed Israeli-Jordanian airport to be established at Akaba, according to a draft agreement drawn up this week. Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh and Aharon Dekel, chairman of the Eilat Hotel Association, who both

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Tadiran said yesterday it signed

a memorandum of understanding

with US company Exide

Corporation for the joint produc-

Exide, based in Michigan, is the

world leader in manufacturing and

marketing starting, lighting, igni-

tion and industrial lead acid batter-

ies. It has a market share of 40%,

Tadiran said the two sides plan

strategic cooperation that would

combine Tadiran's technology

tion of lithium batteries.

according to Tadiran.

favor keeping the Eilat Airport, had feared that during his visit to Jordan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would yield to Jordanian pressure to redirect all flights to Eilat to the proposed joint airport. Kadosh had initiated a campaign under the title, "Bibi is selling out Eilat."

However, the Transport Ministry announced this week Transport

and research and development capabilities with Exide's world-

wide marketing organization. The

terms of the agreement have not

Tadiran said it had invested \$20

million in developing the hatteries and another \$10 m. in building an

automated production line capable

of turning out about 8 million bat-

The lightweight batteries have a

life span of more than 10 years,

and are designed for use in cellular

telephones, medical equipment

Tadiran, Exide sign

lithium battery deal

yet been set.

teries annually.

and military hardware.

THE FIVE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TECHNICAL

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PREVENTING SUPER-TERRORISM:

THREATS AND RESPONSES

The conference will be held on Wednesday - Thursday.

March 12-13, 1997

at Tel Aviv University and at the Center for

Technological Education, Holon.

At the conclusion of the conference, on March 13, a dedication ceremony

will be held for the Library of the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies, at the Center for Technological Education, Holon, with the participation of The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

The public is invited.

For details and registration: Tel Aviv University:

Tel. 03-640-8560; Fax 03-642-4264. Center for Technological Education, Holon: Tel/Fax 03-502-6726

that Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental had gained Jordanian acceptance of a draft agreement which would reserve the joint airport for international flights, while the Eilat Airport, located in the center of the town, would continue to serve for domestic flights.

Upon his return from Jordan on Wednesday night, Langental

joint airport could begin in a matter of months. According to the agreement, the airfield itself is to be in Jordan, with the connecting Israeli terminal on Israeli territory. Two subcommittees are to deal with the air rights of the two countries and the establishment of a joint company to operate the air-

# West Coast S&Ls

SEATTLE (Reuter) - Great Western Financial Corp., attempting to fend off a hostile takeover hid by A.H. Ahmanson and Co., said yesterday it agreed to be acquired by Washington Mutual Savings Bank for \$6.6 hillion.

The agreement tops the \$6.1h. bid from Ahmanson.

Great Western and Washington Mutual said the merger would rank Washington Mutual third in deposits in the state of California and give it entry to Florida, where Great Western had \$7.1b. in deposits at the end of 1996.

Great Western is based in Chatsworth, California, and Washington Mutual is based in Seattle, Washington. Based on 1996 results, the combined companies would have assets of

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in \$6.6b. merger

\$87.4b. and deposits of \$52.7b. Washington Mutual had been considered a possible rival hidder since Ahmanson made its unsolicited approach last month.

# Ex-Amot exec Topol gets 15 years

### By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Yosef Topol, the former controller of Amot Investments convicted of stealing NIS 17 million from the company, was sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

As part of a plea-bargain, Topol was also required to return NIS 3.67m. to Amot, a subsidiary of Bank Hapoalim.

Under the plea bargain, Topol admitted to 53 counts of theft and forgery amounting to NIS 17 m.

The court said the former comptroller took advantage of his senior position to forge dozens of checks for hundreds of thousands of shekels, which he signed under the names of managers in the own and family members' bank accounts. To cover up his actions. Topol put false entries in the company's books under the names of companies working with Amot

Judge Nathan Amit said in his verdict he found it "surprising" that this could happen in a public company such as Amot.

"Under the noses of the company managers and the internal and external controllers, the accused succeeded, not once and not twice, but tens of times to steal huge sums of millions of shekels from the company by forging hundreds of documents without anything being discovered," he

The judge recommended that Amot re-examine the operation of its supervision and control divi-

Topol served as controller nf

Amot Investments for 26 years. Amot has also filed an NIS 20 million civilan suit against him.
As part of the plea bargain, most

of the charges against Topol's son and danghter-in-law, Eran and Yasmin Topol, were dropped. Eran, who was convicted of forcign currency violations was given a 6-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of NIS 10,000. All charges against Yasmin were

# ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

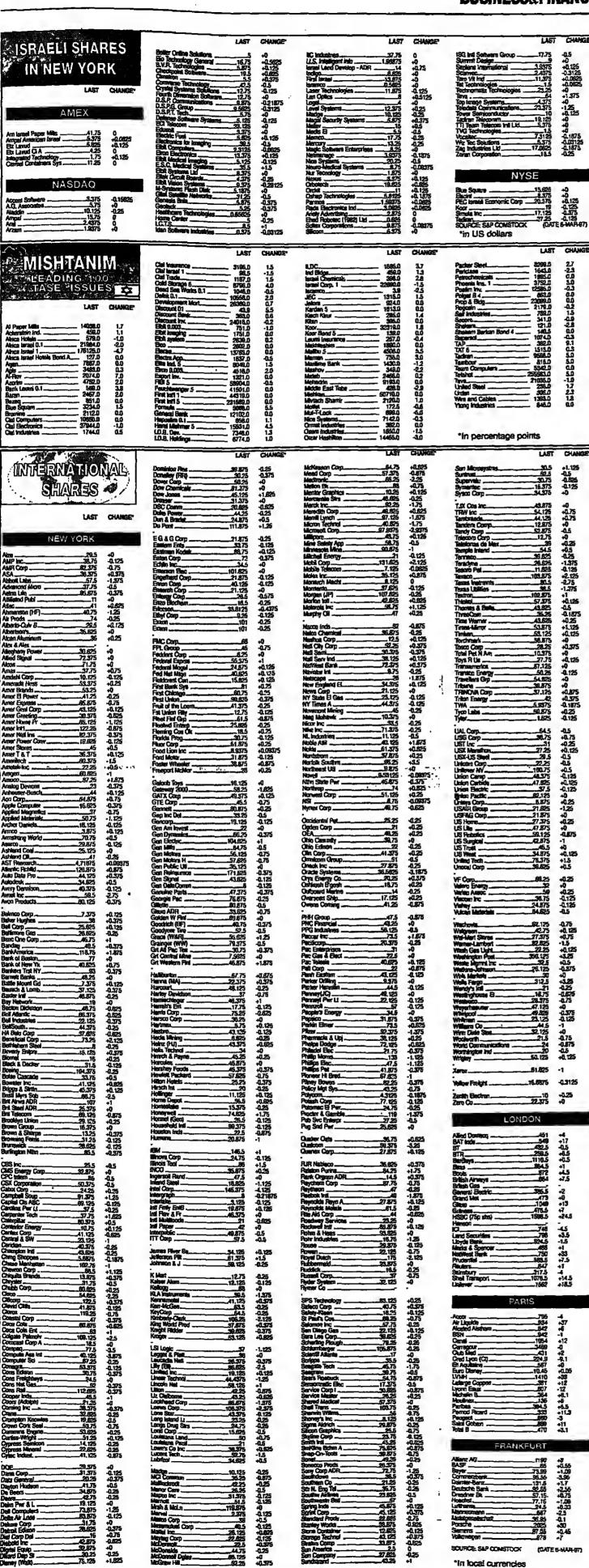
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) Currency (deposit for:) 3 MONTHS U.S. dollar (\$250,000) 4.750 6 MONTHS 5.000 4.000 5.375 4.250 2.125 Pound sterling (£100,000) German mark (DM 200,000) Swiss franc (SF 200,000) Yen (10 million yer (Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekei Foreign Exchange Rates\* (6.3.97)

ı		CHECK	SAND						
		TRANSI	FERS	ERS BANKNOTES		Rep.			
		Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates*			
	Currency basket	3.6102	3.6685			3.6467			
i	U.S. doller	3.3361	3,3900	3.27	3.44	3.3700			
1	German mark	1.9415	1.9729	1.90	2.01	1.9607			
	Pound sterling	5.3815	5.4683	5.28	5.55	5.4254			
	French franc	0.5767	0.5860	0.56	0.60	0.5812			
	Japanese yen (100)	2.7461	2.7904	2.89	2.83	2.7738			
	Dutch florin	1.7250	1.7529	1.69	1.78	1.7427			
	Swiss franc	22440	2.2802	2.20	2.32	2.2631			
	Swedish krona	0.4350	0.4421	0.42	0.45	0.4391			
	Norwegian krone	0.4775	0.4853	0.48	0.50	0.4846			
	Danish krone	0.5093	0.5176	0.50	0.53	0.5142			
	Finnish mark_	0.6510	0.6615	0.63	0.68	0.6572			
	Canadian dollar	2.4398	2.4792	2.39	2.52	2.4657			
1	Australian dollar	2.6210	2.6633	2.57	2.71	2.6500			
	S. African rand	0.7485	0.7608	0.67	0.77	0.7559			
	Belgian franc (10)	0.9413	0.9565	0.92	0.97	0.9501			
	Austrian schilling (10)	2.7590	2.8035	2.71	2.85	2.7860			
	Italian lira (1000)	1.9524	1.9839	1.91	2.02	1.9713			
	Jordanian dinar	4.6400	4.9600	4,64	4.96	4,7770			
	Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.03	1.0194			
	EQ)	3.7803	3.8413			3.8172			
	Irish punt	5.2010	5.2849	5.11	5.86	5.2451			
	Spanish peseta (100)	2.2959	2.3330	2.25	2.37	2.3185			

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM!



TASE ROUNDUP

# Stocks extend gains

Mishtanim **257.69 A 0.73**%

BY ROBERT DANIEL

Stocks advanced for a fourth day yesterday, led by jumps in holding companies Tadiran Ltd. and Israel Land Development Co., Israel Chemicals Ltd., Tambour

Key Representative Rates ... NIS 3.3700 + 0.099

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Tologo teldes 18041.3 Singapore all-there index 18041.3 Hong Kong Hang Seng index 13416.3 Jessel Index 226.26

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

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LONDON COMMODITIES SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

-0.71 -0.03 NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

LONDON METAL FIXES

SOURCE: SAP CONSTOCK (DATE 6-MAR-97) DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

ABARONEUTER STREETS LIBITED Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963. Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate. The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data. Readers who wish to report missing or misquoted data should do so on postcards only, addressed to

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INVESTMENTS

Jerusalem Post Business

Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem

Ltd. and Bank Leumi. The Mishtanim Index rose 0.73 percent to 257.69, while the Maof

Index moved up 0.77% to 265.42. For the week, the Mishtanim

added 1.8% and the Maof moved

up 1.6%. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 93.4 million of shares traded. That's 9.8% less than the month's daily average of NIS 103.5m. and 41% below the year's average of NIS 157.6m. About 3.5 issues rose for every one that fell.

The most active issue was Israel

Maof **265.42** ▲ **0.77**% Chemicals, up 2.75% to 3.98 on trading of NIS 6m. of shares.

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Tadiran leaped 5% to 95.68. Israel Land Development jumped 3.75% to 15.85. Its American depositary receipts, each representing three ordinary shares, slipped 1/8 to 13 1/4 in New York on Wednesday.

Bezeq was unchanged at 8.51. Bank Leumi gained 3.75% to 5.69. Bank Hapoalim rose 1% to 6.58, Discount Bank added 0.5% to 3.63 and First International Bank was unchanged at 2,315.89. (Bloomberg)

### WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

# Eurobourses up on strong Dow hopes

LONDON (Reuter) - British blue chips surged to a record high for the third day running, spurred on by a resilient Wall Street and a more relaxed view about interest rates and stock valuations. But institutional investors remained cautious ahead of key US. unemployment figures due today which have the potential to burst both the Dow's and the FTSE's bubble. The FTSE 100 closed 39.2 points higher at

4,399.3 FRANKFURT - Shares ended bourse trade up on gains fueled by the overnight advance on Wall Street. The 30-share DAX raced off to a new record trading high of 3,426.54 points before ending the day up 52.61 points at 3.417.60 points. In post-bourse trade the Dax stood at 3,396.55.

PARIS - Bolstered by Wall Street's strength and a firm dollar, French stocks ended at a record closing level in high volume. The blue-chip CAC-40 index finished up 32.73 points or 1.23 percent at 2,698.92. But that was below a historic high hit earlier in the day of 2,711.12

ZURICH - Shares rose over 1% to end for the first time above 4,600 points on the blue-chip Swiss Market Index (SMI), backed by a firmer dollar and Wall Street gains. Dealers said the Swiss bourse tracked most European markets. SMI ended up

### WALL STREET REPORT

# Dow drops slightly

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Stock prices ended slightly lower vesterday as Wall Street turned cautious ahead of today's important jobs report for

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 1.15 points at 6,944.70. In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin on active volume of 526 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

### **CABINET**

Continued from Page 1

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon called upon the government not to yield Area C for now, so it can retain it as a bargaining chip for the future. However, under the Oslo accords, by the middle of next year Israel is obligated to redeploy from the entire West Bank, except for the settlements and 'specified military locations."

Before last night's cabinet meering, Netanyahu convened a ministerial panel to discuss the pullback. Minister Defense Yitzhak Mordechai offered different options, which had been prepared by IDF planners. After the preliminary meeting, there were reports that Israel would yield about 8% of Area B and 2% of Area C.

According to one unconfirmed report, the IDF judge advocate-general said that Israel is obligated to yield parts of Area C during every pullback, but ministers were appealing to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to see if this was indeed

The PA is expecting about 25% of Areas C and B to be turned over to area A, far more than is being contemplated by the government or the

"We are expecting 25% of Areas C and B to be transferred to Area A. Oslo says nothing about transferring areas from C to B," said Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator of the Hebron accord.

The figure is based on the Palestinian view that 80% to 90% of the territory of the West Bank should be in Palestinian hands by August of next year.

Ahmed Qurie, speaker of the Legislative Council and the chief Oslo negotiator, warned that redeploying from 8% of Area B and only 2% of Area C was not sufficient, since there already has been a partial Israeli redeployment from Area B and the intention of Oslo was to transfer authority from Area

In fact, according to security sources involved in the Oslo talks, redeployment could be interpreted as transfer of areas from Area C to Area B or Area A since the transfer of Area B to Area A comes under a different provision entitled "further transfer of security responsibility."

### COALITION Continued from Page 1

Labor's executive, meanwhile, promised Netanyahu a parliamentary "safety net" on this issue.

MK Ehud Barak stressed that the "safety net" will be restricted to the pullback alone, and not to anything related to the Bar-On Affair, "which is transpiring as [a] disgrace to proper conduct and the foundations of the rule of law. That is the picture emerging now, but we'll wait until the end of the investigation."

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea. Samaria and Gaza emerged from a meeting with Netanyahu last night looking somber and anxious. During the meeting, the settlement leaders tried to prevent any withdrawal from Area C.

Among those who attended were chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, director Aharon Domb, Ze'ev Hevel of Amana (the council's settlement arm), Givat Ze'ev Mayor Shaul Mizzahi and Ma'alch Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel. Prior to the meeting. Wallerstein said that if Netanyahu planned to go

C, it would mean "a divorce" from the government.
The government is voluntarily offering to withdraw from areas without any connection to the Oslo

ahead with a withdrawal from Area

agreement," said Domb, in a radio But Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, said that council heads were concerned that Netanyahu had bowed to US pres-

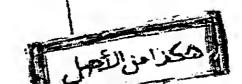
"According to what was said in the meeting, 2% of Area C will be turned over to the Palestinian Authority. That amounts to an area of approximately 180 square kilometers. There is no reason to go that

far," Leiter said. If the area between Bethlehem and Gush Etzion is turned over to the Palestinians, the semiement of Efrat will be in an extremely uncomfortable position, he said.

Eve Harrow, spokeswoman for the recently established Committee for Judea, Samaria and Gaza Settlements, echoed this.

"For some, a stone's throw from their house will turn into Area A." she said.

The worst-case scenario," Letter said, "is that by the end of the third stage the government will agree to withdraw from up to 20% of Area C. But the real picture or plan is not clear to anyone."



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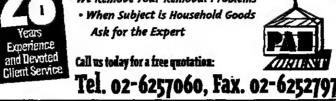
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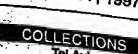
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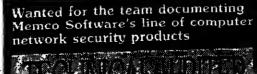
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in brief

### **IDF** further eases closure

The IDF further eased the closure on the territories, lowering the age of Palestinian laborers eligible for work permits in Israel and increasing to 400 the number of Palestinian Authority officials allowed to travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to the new regulations, married Palestinian males over the age of 24 who have security clearances now will he eligible for work permits. Until today, permits were given only to those over the age of 28. Two hundred Palestinians also were given one-day permits to transfer civil administration vehicles to Israel for maintenance, the army said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak approved the measures, but stipulated that all eligible workers needed to have security

### Flag again flying over Rachel's Tomb

The Religious Affairs Ministry yesterday replaced the Israeli flag over Rachel's Tomh. According to Ministry spokesman Shimon Malka, the flag had been removed from the tomb itself, due to work on the roof, and transferred to the army post across the street. Later, be said, the army had removed that flag at the request of the government, which feared it would be a cause of contention. Yesterday, Malka added, he went to the tomb at Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi's request and not only replaced the flag on the roof, but also put another flag at the tomb's entrance.

Haim Shapiro the tomb's entrance.

### PA sentences three to death for murder

The Palestinian Authority special security court sentenced two police officers and a civilian to death yesterday for gunning down a Preventive Security Service agent outside his Gaza home. The court also sentenced seven others to prison terms for complicity in the murder. All 10 are from the same family, including Major Atif Baizi, a member of PA Chairman Yasser

Arafat's personal security guard.

Khair el-Din, Faris and Mohammed Baizi ambushed Ismail Hassouna outside his house in Deir-el-Balah on Tuesday. The Baizi family believed that during the intifada Hassonna, a Fatah Hawk, murdered a member of the family for allegedly collabo-

Though several Gazans have been sentenced to death for offenses ranging from murder to rape none of the sentences has

### Labor to field "independent" for Histadrut

The Labor Party will consider letting its candidate for Histadrut chairman in the next Histadrut elections head an independent list for the first time in its history, it was decided at the

party's executive meeting yesterday.

Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli yesterday proposed that Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz be nominated as Labor's candidate for the Histadrut chairmanship, even though Peretz is part of a separate faction, New Life, in the Histadrut.

Peretz is demanding to be Labor's candidate in the Histadrut elections without having to be elected via party primaries.

Michal Yudelman

### Army stops settlers building near Kedumim

settlers from Kedumiim who began illegal construction near their settlement were mined back by the IDF yesterday, a day after they scuffled with Palestinians at the site.

The settlers had, for the second day, brought buildozers to the hilltop, situated between their community and the neighboring Palestinian village of Kafr Kaddoum.

On Wednesday, Palestinians threw stones at the settlers, who responded by firing in the air. Soldiers intervened and yesterday troops were stationed on the hilltop to keep either side from taking the hill.

### Kinneret water level to be low this summer

The water level in Lake Kinneret appears destined to be lower than normal this summer, unless there are heavy downpours during what remains of the winter.

Recent precipitation has brought the amount of rainfall in the northern and central regions almost up to the regular winter average, but the long, dry spell earlier this winter has meant that most of the rain bas soaked into the ground, instead of running off into the Jordan River and the streams that flow into the

Mekorot officials reported yesterday that the level of water in the lake has risen by only 64 centimeters so far this winter. It is still 2.6 meters from its maximum mark and more than 1.2 meters below the level it reached at the end of last winter.

### Jews, Christians donate to fight prejudice Twenty-two Christians and six Jews have made a large dona-

tion to the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews in Education, which supports programs to fight theological stereotypes and prejudice. The group gave an equal amount to the Netanya Foundation

to fund programs promoting Arab-Jewisb relations. Members of the group met with Pope John Paul II yesterday Lisa Palmieri-Billig

### B'tselem: Prosecute Hizme shooters

B'tselem, the buman rights organization, has called for the prosecution of undercover officers who shot a Hizme man in the leg during a clash there last week. The man, Mohammed al-Hilu, 57, died. B tselem said there was evidence he died from hlows to the head by soldiers and not from the bullet. The IDF insists that he was shot below the knee when he was about to hurl a rock at an IDF officer and that his death was probably the result of a heart attack. The family buried him without an

# Most banks expected to be open today

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bank workers are expected to cancel their plans to strike today despite the lack of any substantial progress made towards an agreement on the transition to a fiveday work week.

The Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi workers committees have instructed employees to work today, even though no agreement has been reached on the issue with management. It was not clear last night whether the other banks will strike.

The National Labor Court conducted a hearing on the issue late

Before the meeting, Histadrut

bank workers division head Zion Sbema said the workers object to the guidelines set by Antitrust Commissioner David Tadmor and Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles regarding the transition to a short-

"At this stage, it is unclear whether the strike will go ahead or not," Shema said.
"The workers are not likely to

agree to the proposal to open banks six days a week hut let workers work the equivalent of a five-day week," he said

A proposal of this kind would require employees to work half days or split days from Sunday through Thursday and a full morn-



### Planting for the future

Gabriel Escarrer (right), president of Spain's Sol Melia hotel chain, speaks with his host, tour director Oni Amiel, and JNF official Eliran Kesar at a tree-planting ceremony at the Amiel Forest near Jerusalem yesterday. Sol Melia, Spain's largest hotel chain, wants to begin operating here.

# Ministry rejects Weinroth brutality claim

By BATSHEVA TSUR

# BAR-ON

The Justice Ministry yesterday refuted a claim by the prime minister's private lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, that his secretary was "brutally" interrogated by police investigating the leak of a protocol from the cabinet meeting at which said, unidentified people knocked Roni Bar-On was appointed attorney-general.
Weinroth said that he would

consider taking action against the police for their "brutal behavior" in their interrogation of his secre-Kammy Cohen, on

Transport

**Minister** 

questioned

Wednesday night. said, Cohen we Prime Minister Binyamin gave evidence. Netanyahu hired Weinroth last month after he was questioned under caution over the Bar-On affair. Police asked Cohen to give evidence in connection with the leak of the protocol of the cabinet meeting to Globes newspaper.
Weinroth told Israel Radio yes-

terday that Cohen works as his secretary "from morning to night" and police claims that they could not track her down were spurious. On Wednesday night, Weinroth

on her door and she was afraid to open it. She phoned Weinroth, who in turn called the Dizengoff police station, the attorney general and state attorney, discovering eventually that these were police investigators. At that point, he said, Cohen went with them and All concerned, Weinroth said.

knew that no one from his office had leaked the protocol. But the Justice Ministry had a different version. "Because of the nature of the investigation; it was not possible to approach the secretary in the office,

nor was it necessary to speak to

advocate Weinroth whose evidence is not required at this stage," the ministry said in a statement. "For more than an hour and a half, [Cohen] refused to open the door to her apartment, despite the fact that the team, which included

two women, offered to show her their IDs." The ministry expressed its "surprise that the investigation has met with such a stormy reaction for no

substantive reason."

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party was questioned in his office yesterday by police investigating the Bar-On Affair. Levy was asked why he

abstained in the cabinet vote on the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general and if he had any information that the appointment was part of a deal with Shas.

Investigators from the police and State Attorney's Office focused their efforts this week on reviewing evidence to determine if there are grounds for indicting officials involved in the alleged deal. At this stage, sources said, there is not enough evidence to recommend any official be charged.

Next week, investigators plan to question some people again, including Justice Minister Tzahi Haneghi and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor

# Hoter-Yishai again attacks Aharon Barak

By BATSHEYA TSUR

Israel Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai yesterday launched a fresh attack on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, saying that Barak delays the handing down of verdicts "for years. "The bar association's cen-

tral committee has decided that the approach of the Supreme Court and its president, who consider that every matter should come under their purview, has led to delays in bearing appeals, to transferring cases to the end of the list and to putting off verdicts for years. This approach of intervening in matters that should not be under the purview of the court or its president, has divided the legal community and is controversial in itself," Hoter-Yishai said in a statement.

Turning to the Bar-On

affair, Hoter-Yishai added: "The central committee has expressed reservations about the court president's overintervention in appointments in the executive branch of government. This intervention recently led to the need to give evidence to the police." Sources close to Barak

recently said that he had been asked hy the police why he had opposed the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorneygeneral when approached on the matter by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi. In his statement yesterday,

Hoter-Yishai said he saw it as "a public duty to express my views, and those of the majority who chose me for a second term of office" as bar association chairman.

On Wednesday, the heads of the bar association's district offices published a statement condemning Hoter-Yishai's

# Haifa Chemicals talks continue

By DAVID RUDGE

Last-ditch negotiations are to be held loday in an effort to reach an agreement to resolve the labor dis-pute that has closed the giant Haifa Chemicals bayside factory for near-

Histadrul chairman Amir Peretz is due to meet representatives of the. company's owner, Arye Genger, in a hid to iron out remaining problems, in a draft agreement.

Sources close to the Histadrut negotiating team were optimistic last night that the issues in question can he resolved and the factory, which currently employs 500 people, will reopen after one of the longest labor disputes in the country's history.

The go-ahead for the meeting followed hours of talks last night between Peretz and Histadrut officials and members of the Haifa Chemicals workers committee, which had rejected the draft agreement.
Under the terms of the provisional

accord, 60 of the workers are to take voluntary retirement, another 55 will be fired with preferential redundancy terms and 20 would move onto personal contracts.

The remainder of the workers would be expected to take cuts in welfare and social benefits that would reduce their overall salaries by as much as 17 percent.

Management has insisted on the cutbacks, in return for a collective labor agreement, in order to reduce the firm's overhead expenses and enable it to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The workers committee has insisted on several amendments to the draft accord, which Peretz is to put before the owner's representatives

Workers committee chairman David Raviv apologized to Peretz last night for remarks he made about the Histadrut during a mass meeting of the workers outside the factory gates on Wednesday, during which Raviv tore up the draft accord and described it as a self-out.

# Betar to suffer in silence

Israel juniors looking good

The punishment meted out on league leaders Betar Jerusalem by the IFA after crowd trouble at Teddy Stadium last month in the match with Hapoel Beersheba is unlikely to trouble the players as they take on Zafririm Holon

Betar have been ordered to play at Teddy Stadium behind closed doors, which is expected to cost the Jerusalemites gate-takings of nearly NIS 500,000. The surrealistic surround

tomorrow afternoon.

ings are sure to have some effect on all the players, but the difference in quality between the two sides is still one which would appear to favor Betar very heavily. Lowly Holon

they lie in 14th place in the standings, just one point above the danger zone - have not won in their

last five outings and appear to have neither the talent nor the firepower to trouble the Jerusalemites. It seems as if not even the hiring earlier this week of Guy Levy as technical manager will make any difference. Betar's five-point cushion looks more comfortable than ever as the

featured match of the weekend -

between second placed Hapoel Petah Tikva who travel to the Negev to meet third placed Hapoel Beersheba - could see the points split between the two main chal-lengers to Betar's league mastery.

The clash in Beersheba should be a cracker, with both sides going

all out to gain the three points. Both clubs will turn out with their stars fit, Beersheba's two imports, Siad Halilovic and Giovanni

Rosso, will certainly trouble Petah Tikva's back line as they create

moves which will endanger Shai Hess's goal.
Petah Tikva will look to the taients of Gabor Marton as the key man at the back, the ball skills of Manor Hassan and Yaniv Ofri and the strike power of Motti Kakkon

for a positive result. Other fixtures see the Haifa derby relegated to a game of only passing interest, particularly after Maccabi's poor showing of late, and Maccahi Tel Aviv's home clash with Buei

Yehuda gets less than its fair share of coverage as neither side is in the running for anything much Maccabi will, perhaps, try to lost pride after soundly beat them in the

Toto Cup semi-

final, held last

Championship imaken Germany near grain it helt dies then qualifying match with Albania at But Auto tomorroy evening.

The Albanians Density reconstruct at the second match of the transpirity qualifying totamament temp, belding its in the opining chart yields at the comment to the institution of th At the bottom, Hapoel Beit She'an host Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Herzliya are at home to

hapless Hapoel Taiba. This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 15:00 unless stated): Betar Jerusalem vs. Zafririm Holon, Teddy Stadium 16:30; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Bnei Yehuda, National Stadium RG 16:00; Maccabi Herzliya vs. Hapoel Taiba, Herzliya; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Beersheba, Hapoel Haifa vs. Maccabi Haifa, Kiryat Eliezer, 15:30; Maccabi Petah Tikva vs. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Petah Tikva; Hapoel Beit She'an vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Beit She'an today 14:30; Ironi Rishon Lezion vs. Hapoel

# Man Utd headed one way, Newcastle

LONDON (AP) - While 4-0 humbling Wednesday of Manchester United flirt with mak- Portugal's FC Porto in the first-leg

The Magpies, out-classed in a 1-0 home loss earlier in the week in a UEFA Cup first-leg quarterfinal against Monaco, played the match without their top two offensive players – Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, both out with injuries. Colombian Faustino Asprilla also missed the match under sus-

Now it looks like Frenchman David Ginola - wbo has been benebed since Kenny Dalglish took over at Newcastle in January following Kevin Keegan's surprise resignation - wants to leave. Ginola's manager Jean Francois Larios bas had talks with the French club Marseille, suggesting Ginola may be about to return to his native southern France.

In the short-run, Newcastle may have to play Monday at league No. 2 Liverpool without goalkeeper Shaka Hislop, who dislocated a finger in the UEFA Cup loss. Newcastle can't afford any slips

if they want to land a place next season in Enrope. The fourth-place Magpies have 48 points and trail league-leading Manchester United by nine. Liverpool are second with 53 points followed by Arsenal with 51. Aston Villa are fifth with 46 followed by Sheffield Wednesday (45) and Wimbledon English soccer this weekend is a

bodge-podge of league and FA Cup quarterfinals. In the FA Cup, it's Derby-Middlesbrough tomorrow with three more on Sunday -Chesierfield-Wrexham, Portsmouth-Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday-Wimbledon.

In tomorrow's Premier League games: Arsenal-Nottingham Forest, Coventry-Leicester, Leeds-Everton, and Sunderland-Man-chester United. On Monday, Newcastle play at Liverpool. In the first division tomorrow,

league-leading Bolton are home Manchester United, with their

ing history, Newcastle are strug-gling to make it through the sea-Cup, are the English team of the

But the surprise team might be newly-promoted Leicester, who moved into ninth place in the Premier League after a 1-0 win Wednesday over Aston Villa, It was Leicester's third straight win in the league.

"After the first half (of the sea-

son), the only way we'd get into Europe was on the hovercraft," said outspoken manager Martin O'Neill. "But we did better in the second half, didn't we."

Leicester, who are led by American goalkeeper. Kasey Keller, are ninth with 36 points -21 fewer than Manchester United. But Leicester aren't that far behind the bottom club in the top six - Sheffield Wednesday with 45

"Don't tell my players anything about Europe," O'Neill joked. "I don't want them getting overexcited." Leeds, playing better since former Arsenal manager George Graham took over at midseason, may lose Ghana striker Tony Yeboah who is reportedly seeking a transfer. That is news to me," Graham

Yeboah told the Daily Star he's not welcome at Leeds.

Graham only allows me to play because it is what the fans want he said. "It is not because it is what he wants to do.". In Scotland, Rangers say they are ready to open contract talks

with England international midfielder Paul Gascoigne, who is also being sought by Sunderland of the Premier League. We'll sit down very shortly with Paul to discuss his con-

tract," said vice-chairman Donald Findlay, who was down-playing talk of a five-year agree-"Five years is perhaps off

beam, but we'd certainly like Paul to stay with Rangers if that's what he wants to do," Findlay

# Bowe wants another go

NEW YORK (AP) - Two weeks after his aborted stint as a Marine recruit, former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe said he wants

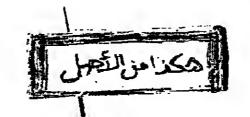
"All I think about is becoming a Marine," Bowe told the Daily News. I really would like to be a Marine and make the Marine Corps proud. If they gave me another opportunity, I know I can do it.

"It's what's in my heart. Next time, if they give me another chance.

I'll know what to expect." Gunnery Sgt. Hugh Hawthome of the Marine.

Recruiting Command told the newspaper that it was "virtually impossible" that the 29-year-old fighter would be given a second opportunity.

Bowe left the Parris Island, SC, base February 20 after just 10 days of camp, saying he couldn't stand the "complete loss of control" over his life. He was granted a general discharge.



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By BRIAN FREEMAN

Efes Pilsen showed wby it is one

Europe this season, especially

of the strongest basketball teams

ou its home court, with a convinc-

ing 76-67 victory over Maccabi

Tel Aviv in Game 1 of their Final

If Maccabi does not beat Efes on

Tuesday night at Yad Eliyahu and

then again next Thursday back in

Istanbul, the European season will

Four Efes players scored in dou-

ble figures as the club used its

patented teamwork and a 25-27

night from the free-throw line to

keep the Israelis at bay, despite no

field goals and only three points in

the second half from its star point

Maccabi beld an early advantage

at 12-9 but quickly fell behind and

was never able to even the score

guard Petar Naumoski.

end for the blue-and-yellow.

16 series last night.

# 'Crime not an issue in Cape Town bid'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuter) - Cape Town Stockholm who are highly regarded in terms of their bidders said yesterday that crime would not be an issue when they tried to persuade Olympic chiefs to keep the city in the race to bold the 2004 Summer

The International Olympic Committee brought up the issues of crime and political stability in South Africa when a Cape Town delegation was among 11 cities presenting their bids to the body at a meeting here, the delegation said.

The IOC will draw up a shortlist of four or five cities today. Cape Town is believed to have a very good chance of being one of the final candidates who will go into a vote at the IOC's session in September to decide the venue.

But the city needed to stress that South Africa was winning the fight against crime and that the country would be stable when President Nelson Mandela leaves office in 1999.

"In 1994 we inherited an unacceptable high level of crime and there was a high level of corruption in the police," South African's Speaker of the House Frene Ginwala said. "We have arrested and charged more police in this time than in the 40 years before

The bid's executive officer Chris Ball added: "You have to get crime in Cape Town into perspective. Crime at the Olympic Games will not be an issue." Cape Town has a battle on its hands to match the bids favorites Rome, Athens, Buenos Aires and

Soccer stars face corruption re-trial

charges related to fixing soccer matches.

ended with the jury failing to reach a verdict.

new trial.

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**SPORTS** 

in brief

LONDON (AP) - Former soccer stars Bruce Grobbelaar, John

The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday it would press

ahead with proceedings against the four. No date was set for the

The announcement comes just two days after their first trial

The first trial lasted seven weeks at Winchester Crown Count

over allegations of conspiring to give and accept corrupt payments to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of foot-

ALAMEDA, Ca. (AP) - Desmond Howard, who salvaged a

fading career with an electrifying kickoff return in the Super Bowl, parlayed his comeback into a new job - with the Oakland

Howard, who left the Green Bay Packers to sign a four-year,

\$6 million contract, becomes the second straight Super Bowl

MVP to sign with the Raiders. Larry Brown joined them after

making two interceptions for Dallas in the 1996 title game. In Green Bay's 35-21 Super Bowl victory over New England

in January, Howard set a record with 10 kick returns for 244

yards, including a 99-yarder for a touchdown that scaled the

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - In an era when athletes are often

"All coach Fulmer promised me next year were books, tuition,

perceived as money-grabbers, Peyton Manning decided to stay

Actually, he exacted a small price to play quarterback for

food and I get to call one play a game and drive his Lexus

around the block," Manning said wryly.

Manning's decisiou to play his senior season will likely cost
him becoming the No. 1 pick in the April 19 NFL draft.

"Twenty-five, \$30 million. I'm buman. Believe me, I looked

Manning holds Tennessee records for career passing yardage

SAN IOSE (Renter) - Costa Rican internationals Paulo Cesar Wanchope and Mauricio Solis have signed for Premier League

Striker Wanchope and midfielder Sols both signed three-year

Yankees sign Rivera, Pettitte; Jeter holds out

TAMPA. (AP) - Pitchers Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera,

American League Rookie of the Year Derek Jeter had his con-

keys to the New York Yankees' championship run last season,

tract renewed at a figure to be determined after the shortstop

rejected an offer of \$450,000. Petitte, 21-8 with a 3.87 ERA in

1996, signed for \$600,000. The 24-year-old left-hander should

Rivera is expected to become the closer in the bullpen after

John Wetteland left for Texas as a free agent. He signed a deal worth \$550,000. Rivera, 27, was the Yankees' setup man a year ago, fanning 130 in 107 % innings as he went 8-3 with a 2.09

Jeter hit 314 with 10 homers, 78 RBIs and scored 104 runs.

contracts and expect to be available on March 22.

signed one-year contracts with the team Wednesday.

be one of the mainstays of the Yankees staff.

(7,382), touchdowns (53), completions (576), attempts (904),

at the money," Peyton Manning said. "I'm hoping the money's

there next year, too, the good Lord willing I stay healthy."

completion percentage (63.7) and numerous single-season

Costa Ricans sign for Derby

Tennessee and coach Phillip Fulmer for another year.

Manning passes on NFL's riches

put and play for free.

side Derby County.

Desmond Howard leaves Pack for Raiders

Fasham and Hans Segers along with London-based Malaysian

businessman Heng Suan Lim are to be retried on corruption

facilities and organization.

But the city has a very strong political case because it can bring the Games to Africa for the first time. It would certainly be a surprise if the IOC decided against including the South African city in its shortlist.

Ginwala said Cape Town told the IOC there would be continuity in the country despite the fact that Mandela would be banding over his control of the African National Congress (ANC) later this year and would not be standing in the 1999 election.

"When any society has men and women of great achievement people ask these questions," she said.
"The issue is being addressed... Collective decisions are made in South Africa." Cape Town stressed it would be representing a whole continent. But the delegation, which included Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, was quick to point out that it was not just in ausanne to plead a political case.

"We have not just come for a political award," "Technically we are on a par with the other bids."

The outsiders in the race - Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St Petersburg - were also trying to impress the IOC's selection group of their qualities on Thursday, together with the

Rio has brought Pele to Switzerland to back its bid but the delegation is likely to leave Lausanne disappointed.

# Obziler, Cahana square off in tennis final

### By HEATHER CHAIT

her second title in two weeks, will play Nataly Cabana in the semifinal of the \$10,000 women's tournament in Tel Aviv today.

Twenty-three-year-old Obziler.

The other semifinal will also star no seeds as Swiss Miroslava Vavrinec meets Czech qualifier Milena Nekvapilova.

In the Masters event of the Club Hotel Eilat satellite, also in Tel Aviv, top seed Andrew Ilie from Austria is seeking his third title of

vesterday to reach today's semifinal where be will play Dmitri Poliakov from the Ukraine who squeezed through against Lior Mor 6-7(5/7), 6-4, 6-3.

The other semifinal Yesterday Bachelot beat Noam Behr 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; and Variet beat Andres Zingman from Argentina,

from the Ivory Coast 7-5, 6-4.

# Athletes move to cut compulsory doping bans

LAUSANNE (Reuter) - International athletics chiefs are to push for a cut in compulsory doning bans from four to two years because the rules are close to collapse and have already been abandoned in Germany

said yesterday the IAAF would try to persuade its congress to make the changes to its rules at a meeting before the world championships in Athens in

Tzippi Obziler, in her quest for

who won her first international event last week in Jaffa, and Cahana are both unseeded.

Yesterday, Obziler beat Nelly Barkan 6-4, 6-1 and Cahana beat Nora Koves from Hungary 6-2, 6-2. Koves was Obziler's victim in the final in Jaffa.

Ilie beat Nir Welgreen 6-3, 7-5

between Frenchmen Jean Francois Bachelot and Julien Varlet, seeded second and fifth respectively. 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

The men's doubles title went to Poliakov and Uzbekistan's Dmitri Tomashevieh who beat Oren Motevassel and Claude N'Goran

because of legal problems. Medical chief Arne Ljungqvist

Mays in a 96-65 defeat at Utah. The point totals were franchiselows for both teams. Where were the stars? Dennis Rodman was sitting out a one-

two nights earlier, David Robinson, Dominique Wilkins and Michael Jordan played less than half the game.

have trouble scoring," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "They obviously are the best team on the planet ... and we just don't have enough players." The defending champions didn't need much from Jordan, who played only 23 minutes and scored just 16 points, about half his league-lead-

The Bulls played as poorly as the Spurs for the first 17 minutes and led only 30-28. But Dickey Simpkins, one of Rodman's replacements, scored seven points as Chicago finished the first half with an 18-5 run to go up 48-33. Simpkins capped the surge with a

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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New York	45	18	.737	
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Washington	27	31.	466	16%
New Jersey	17	41	293	26%
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Atlanta	39	19	.672	12%
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	Dallas	19	39	.328	231
	Denver	18	42	.300	25%
	San Antonio	13	46	.220	30
	Vancouver	11	50	.180	33
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	LA Lakers	40	19	.678	17
•		33			
	Portland		28	.541	92
	Sacramento	28	32	.467	14
	L.A. Clippers Phoenix	25	31	.446	15
	Phoenix	22	37	.373	191
	Golden State	21	37	.362	20

Wednesday's results: New York 100. Toronto 94; Cleveland 85, Indiana 78; Detroit 92, Minnesota 88; Chicago 111, San Antonio 69; Utah 96, Dallas 65; Portland 121, Phoenix 99; Houston 90, Golden State 85; nento 105, Denver 100.

Maccabi falls to Efes Pilsen

after Nadav Henefeld put in one of first five minutes to 55-41. his three field goals midway through the first period to tie the game at 21-21.

Efes then shifted its offense into high gear before its continuously cheering fans and went on a 13-2 run that was capped by the second of three three-pointers on the night for Ufik Sarcia, who led all scorers with 20 points.

Tel Aviv fell behind by as many as 15 points with only a few minutes remaining in the first half when Borko Radovic came off the bench to breath new life into Maccabi's chances by nailing two consecutive three-pointers of his own to cut the halftime margin to 43-36.

But the Turks served notice immediately out of the locker room that they did not intend to lose a European game at home for the first time all season, building However, to its credit, Maccabi

never threw in the towel. Several times the club cut the margin to within seven points - and once. with six minutes left on the clock to within four at 65-61 - but each time the Turks bounced back.

What really did in the Israelis was 16 second-half points on free throws for the Turks, who made 23 straight from the charity stripe until finally missing with only 2:30 left in the game.

When Maccabi, which only had 11 free-throw attempts all night. cut the lead to four points, it was five straight Efes foul shots which built back up the margin. To make matters worse, Randy

White - who led Maccabi's comeback attempt with 11 second-half points - fouled out during that

Also frustrating for Maccabi

Game 2 in best-of-3 series Tuesday at Yad Eliyahu team which came into the contest as the Euro League club with the

worst disadvantage on the boards. Efes was regularly getting second, and at a few particularly cru-cial moments, third chances to

Maccabi was also done in by the inability of either Doron Sheffer (four points) or Oded Karash (one point) to hit a clutch shot.

For Maccabi, Buck Johnson had a consistent game and led the team with 18 points, while White had 15 and Radovic 11. Henefeld chipped in 7, Brad Leaf 6, Sheffer 4,

Constantin Popa 2 and Katash 1, Sarcia, who was 5-5 from the free-throw line, paced Efes with 20 points, while Vassilij Karasev (9-9 from the line) had 15. Naumoski 14 and Tamer Oyguc 10. Derrick Alston chipped in 9 points and Mirsad Turkcam 8.

# Mavericks, Spurs hit record lows

NEW YORK (AP) - While most of the NBA sets its sights ou playoff seedings and other matters of importance, the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks keep floundering and flopping to new

Both teams reached new lows Wednesday night, the Spurs in a 111-69 loss at Chicago and the

game NBA suspension for hitting Milwankee's Joe Wolf in the groin Sean Elliott were injured and

"We knew we were going to

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lew York	45	18	.737	
Orlando	31	26	.544	12
Vashington	27	31.	466	16%
lew Jersey	17	41	293	26%
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Soston	12	47.	203	32
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<b>Pacific Divis</b>	ion			
Seattle	41	17	.707	
LA. Lakers	40	19	.678	11%
Portland	33	28	.541	9%
Sacramento	28	32	.467	14
L.A. Clippers	25	31	.446	15
Phoenix	22	37	.373	19%
Golden State	21	37	.362	20



EASY DOES IT - Bulls' Michael Jordan drives in for two through Spurs defense. Chicago won in a walkover 111-69.

buzzer-beating 3-pointer. Chicago then outscored San Autonio 30-11 to start the third

This game was one of those you see that makes you wonder if we may have actually set the game back," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "Sometimes you play to the level of your competi-

Jazz 96, Mavericks 65 Dallas managed only 10 points in the third quarter and 14 in the fourth, also producing the lowest point total ever by a Utah oppo-

"It was a rough shooting night for us," said Dallas coach Jim Cleamons, whose team played five games in seven nights. "Being short-banded for most of this stretch has hurt us. We're just a tired basketball team."

After shooting 47.4 percent (18for-38) in the first half, the Mavericks were just 6-of-33 (18.1 percent) in the second half. The Jazz, meanwhile, exceeded

the 50 percent mark (53.9 percent) for the 16th time in 22 games. Karl Malone hit 10 of 13 field-goal attempts and scored 20 points, and Jeff Homacek was 7-of-10 for 17

Dallas' previous low was 66 points in a 12-point loss to Orlando on January 15. Knicks 100, Raptors 94

Patrick Ewing scored seasonhigh 36 points, including 11 straight for visiting New York in the final quarter, to lead the

Knicks to their fifth straight win and 13th in 15 games. The victory improved the Knicks' record to 45-16 and moved them into a virtual first-

place tic in the Atlantic Division with the Miami Heat, which was idle Wednesday. The Heat are 44-

Cavaliers 85, Pacers 78 Danny Ferry scored 19 points,

including two late 3-pointers, and host Cleveland ended Indiana's four-game winning streak and stopped a two-game slide of its

Pistons 92. Timberwoives 88 Detroit started a five-game road trip by denying Minnesota its franchise-record 30th victory. The Pistons got 21 points from

Lindsey Hunter and some clutch shooting late in the fourth quarter by Joe Dumars.

Kevin Garnett had 22 points and eight rebounds for the Wolves. Rockets 90, Warriors 85

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 13 of his 31 points in the fourth period for visiting Houston, which again played without Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler.

Kevin Willis added 17 points and 10 rebounds and Othella Harrington had nine points for the Rockets, who completed a sweep of the four-game season

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# Munich, city of Manchester United tragedy, beckons

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NHL Wednesday: Results: Hartford 2, Calgary 0; Buffalo 4, Pittsburgh 2; Calorado 7, Ministrad 3, New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 1; Phoenix 3, Florida 6; Detroit 4, Thronto 3; Dallas 3, St. Louis 2; Chicago 1, Vancouver 1; Anahelm 4, Ottawa 1. 3

SCOREBOARD

CUP WINNERS' CUP Last night's quarterfinal results: Benfica 0, Florentina 2; Park St. Germain 0, AEK Athens 0; Brann Bergen 1, Liverpool 1; Barrelona 3, AIK Stockholm 1.

Sparts Editors

United's dream of becoming European champions could become a reality in Munich on May 28, the city which witnessed the greatest tragedy in the club's his-

On February 6, 1958 the plane carrying the United party back from a European Cup match in Belgrade, crashed on takeoff after refueling in Munich and 23 people were killed - including eight members of the Busby Babes, as Matt Busby's young talented side were known.

Now, following United's overwhelming 4-0 victory against Porto in the first leg of their European Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday night, United have been installed as second favorites behind Juventus to reach this year's final, which is being staged in Munich.

United have not reached the final since they won the European Cup in 1968 and they have never played a match in Munich. But if they do reach the final and win it, the awful connotations of the words "Manchester United and Munich," will take on a new, different meaning. Rather than diminish the memory of the men who lost their lives there 39 years ago, it would serve

as a tribute to them. On the evidence produced at a pulsating.

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - Manchester vibrant Old Trafford on Wednesday, it seems highly improbable that Porto can stop United in two weeks time advancing one step nearer to southern Germany.

If United do reach the last four as expected they will meet the winner of the Borussia Dortmund-Auxerre quarterfinal and it is hard to see either living with United if they can reproduce the kind of football they served up to demolish Porto.

United manager Alex Ferguson was full of high praise for the way his side played, and singled out Ryan Giggs for his outstanding display in midfield.

That, allied to Eric Cantona's inspirational runs and passing, and the defensive barrier thrown across the back by Gary Pallister and David May, was the cornerstone of United's success.

Giggs was among the scorers, who also included May, Cantona and Andy Cole, and Ferguson said afterwards: "Midfield has always suited Ryan. He showed a maturity and passing awareness that emphasizes that in two years time he will be a truly wonder-"We have always said he had to develop

and now he is developing into an outstand ing talent. He has got something you can't put into people — an electricity and a balance on the ball. Porto simply couldn't live with that"

Apart from one chance in the opening minute and a spell of 15 minutes at the start of the game where the threatened, Porto - who won five of their six Champions League matches including an away victory at AC Milan - produced nothing.

Coach Antonio Oliveira opened with a 4-5-1 formation which he changed soon after United went ahead through May in the 22nd He brought on the tall Brazilian Jardel.

the joint-leading scorer in the Champions League, but Jardel, who had threatened to "turn Old Trafford to ice" before the match was himself frozen out of the picture and hardly made a contribution.

Instead it was United who were rampant, playing with a passion, commitment and self-belief that was missing in the autumn when they won three and lost three of their Champions League matches.

Porto's major mistake was in allowing United to take control of the game with a goal in the opening half hour. Once May had forced the ball over the line from close range, Porto were always on the back foot, and were reeling when Cantona made it 2-0 following a mistake by Brazilian defender

The Portuguese were not helped by their

Aloisio after 34 minutes.

21-year-old goalkeeper Hilario. It might take him the rest of his career to recover from the mistakes which be made in allowing the first two goals - and he will probably have recurring nightmares over Giggs' 61st- minute strike that went in by his near post.

He also came out too quickly and lost control of the situation when Cole quickly swept home the fourth 10 minutes from

Before the match, United were concerned that their midfielder influence would be diminished by the absence of Roy Keane, out with an ankle injury. But Giggs stepped into the gap and United played so brilliantly they hardly missed him.

Ferguson would have settled for a 1-0 win before the match. "To win 4-0 was a result we didn't expect.

its beyond my wildest dreams, and probably everybody else's," he said. Pat Crerand, who played in the 1968 European Cup winning team, said on his local radio show that he believed that United could now go on to win an English

League and European Cup double. It's a dream that could yet come true. That it could come true in the city that witnessed United's darkest hour will give United even more reason to achieve it.

### Beduin tribe petitions court over housing

Forty-two families of the Jahalin Beduin tribe petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against their eviction from their homes near Ma'aleh Adumin to a hilltop which they say lacks any amenities. The families said the UNRWA tents in which they were living had been blown down by storms and they asked the court, via advocate Lynda Brayer, to order the government to build them a housing project in place of what was termed "the latest Palestinian refugee camp."

Jerusalem Post Staff Jerusalem Post Staff

### Woman axed by husband improving

Ruti Fingel, 44, of Ramle, whose busband attacked her with an

ax on Wednesday night, was reported to be improving at Tzrifin's Assaf Harofeh Hospital last night.

The husband, Nuriel Fingel, attacked his wife at her mother's home, immediately after she found her mother dead there. Ruti was saved by a neighbor who heard ber screams and pulled her out of her husband's clutches to safety. She had been wounded in the eye and head. The husband fled the scene, and he had not been located as of last eight. The husband is not suspected of killing the mother, who, tests showed, died a natural death. Itim

### Ministry refuses to raise rank of dead officer

Haifa police are furious that the Internal Security Ministry has refused to raise the rank of Ch.-Supt. Effi Keinan, who died Wednesday of injuries sustained while be and other policemen were trying to quell rioting in Jisr e-Zarka village near Hadera on Sunday night. Keinan's colleagues had called for his rank to be raised, as is often done for soldiers killed in action. The ministry said it investigated the option, but that this case did oot meet the necessary criteria. Keinan was buried in the police section of the Haifa Military Cemetery yesterday.

# Bezeq names interim head

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq's board of directors yesterday appointed Avi Hochman, the telecommunications company's deputy director-general for finance and logistics, as acting directorgeneral. He will fill the shoes of Yitzhak Kaul, who left Bezeq on March I to bead Clal, until a permanent replacement is found.

The board meeting, attended by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, discussed the decision by Dr. Yoram Turbowicz not to appeal a Justice Ministry-appointed committee decision barring him from serving as director-general for a year.

Turbowicz, a highly acclaimed lawyer who recently headed the Anti-Trust Authority, bad been approved by Bezeq's board several weeks ago, but the committee

According to the Communications Ministry, which was shocked by Turbowicz's decision, there are "a number of serious candidates" for director-general, but names or a time frame for an appointment were oot published.

"We are rather in the same situation as wheo Kaul announced his resignation in November," said one Bezeq source.

Hochman, 41, bas a master's degree in business administration from the Hebrew University. He joined the Communications Ministry in 1981 and moved to the Postal Authority in 1987, where he worked as director of the finance division and headed the Postal Bank service. He also served as deputy director-general of the Giltec company.

Bezeq stock dropped 2.5% yes-erday, from NIS 8.51 to NIS 8.30.



Center for Israel Studies in Tel Aviv.

# Shas bill takes aim at Women of the Wall

NEWS

Only a day after the Women of the Wall thought they had won a battle in their struggle to hold group prayers at the Western Wall, a bill was passed in preliminary reading that would change the status of the Western Wall Plaza from a national to a religious site.

The bill, submitted by Shas MKs, would define the Western Wall Plaza as a synagogue, with the rabbi of the Wall in charge. It would be illegal to go with ooe's head uncovered, wear clothing considered immodest, or hold any gathering of a public nature oot authorized in advance, within the area encompassing the entire plaza, from the security posts.

Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Shimoo Malka yesterday made clear that those who drafted the legislation had the Women of the Wall in mind.

"The meaning of the law is that people like the Women of the Wall, who only want to make trouble, wouldn't be able to carry on with their nastiness,'

On Tuesday, the High Court of Justice had given the Religious Affairs Mioistry 60 days to

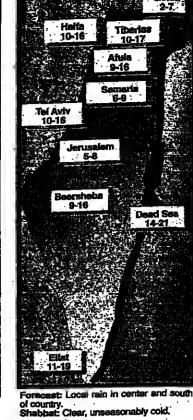
the group to pray aloud at the Western Wall, read from a Torah scroll, and wear prayer shawls, which are usually worn by men. The group has been trying to hold such services since 1989, but its efforts have been thwarted by the authorities and have been met with violence by hare-

di worshipers. For the past three years, an interministerial committee, set up following a previous High Court ruling, has sought to find a solution for the group, but it has only come up with suggestions that the women pray at sites away from the Western Wall Plaza, options which the group has rejected.

According to Prof. Frances Raday, a spokesman for the group, most of the Women of the Wall are Orthodox, and their desire to wear prayer shawls and to read from the Torah is not contrary to Halacha. The effort to silence women at the Wall, she said, dramatically symbolizes the removal of womeo from public life.

Eioat Ramon, spokesperson for the Masorti (Conservative) movement here, said yesterday that Shas has succeeded in quietly introducing of a number of bills, right under the noses of some naive secular MKs, who oot only did oot check what the bills were about, but sometimes even voted for them.

She added that this bill was characteristic of Shas's effort to turn the country into a state run by Halacha.



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By MICHAL YU

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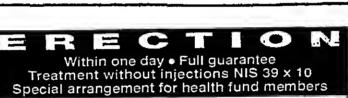
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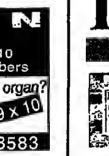
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# **Doctors** warn about early hospital discharges

By JUDY SIEGEL

Patients who were prematurely discharged from hospitals due to overcrowding are returning ill to the wards at upprecedented rates, the Israel Medical Association charged yesterday. The IMA announced the launch-

ing of a "public struggle," aimed at adding 7,000 beds to the public hospitals. The IMA will hold worker

assemblies in all the hospitals on Sunday. At these meetings, doctors will be told to discharge patients only when their condition clearly allows them to be sent

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said that 1,700 of the beds were needed immediately to relieve the severe crowding in internal medicine and many other hospital departments. According to IMA statistics, the

length of the average hospital stay
has been cut in half in the past two decades, and there are internal medicine departments where patients are discharged after an average of only three days, despite having serious illnesses. As a result, many patients return ill to the hospital.

The average occupancy rate in the country's internal medicine departments is 130% to 150%.

Health Ministry spokesman Effic Lahav said the ministry is conducting "marathon discus-sions" with the Treasury over the

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